

**Dillingham Department of Public Safety**  
**Dillingham LIO Speech - March 31, 2014**  
**Community Jails Program funding**

My name is Dan Pasquariello and I am the Chief of Police for the Dillingham Dept. of Public Safety, and I am speaking about funding for the Community Jails Program.

The Dillingham Community jail is an 8 bed facility that can hold inmates for up to a 20 day period. It serves Dillingham and 10 surrounding villages. In 2014, there were 549 persons held in our jail, and we were over-capacity 25% of the time.

For the last two years State funding has actually covered the costs of running our jail, for which we are extremely grateful. In prior years the City of Dillingham had to subsidize the cost of housing the State of Alaska's prisoners. The City of Dillingham is no longer in a financial position to subsidize a State function.

The City of Dillingham cannot absorb the proposed cut to our community jail contract; \$229,000. We are seriously considering no longer accepting the State DOC contract.

If Dillingham is no longer part of the Community Jail program, but merely a municipal lock-up, the impacts will be severe to the Bristol Bay criminal justice system, and the costs to the State will increase.

The only inmates held in our building would be persons arrested by Dillingham Police (*288 in 2014*). We would only hold them until arraignment in the morning. Only 12% of arrestees are released without bail at arraignment. If bail is set we would not accept them back into our building. The State (*AST*) would be responsible for *immediately* transporting them to Anchorage.

The Alaska State Troopers, Village Public Safety Officers, Adult Probation Officers would not be able to house their prisoners in our building (*127 in 2014*).

All sentenced inmates would have to fly to Anchorage at their own expense to remand themselves to serve their time. Many would fail to report to jail because they could not afford it (*134 in 2014*).

If there is a trial at the Dillingham Superior Court, and the defendant is in-custody, they would not be held in our building. The State would have to make arrangements to hold them somewhere else.

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**It will cost the State of Alaska more in transport costs, employee costs, and general logistical and administrative hassle, than it will to keep the Community Jail funding at current levels.**

**Without a Community Jail in Dillingham I foresee the following for Bristol Bay. If a person commits an offense in Anchorage, or Juneau, or any City with a State DOC prison, they will be held on bail if it is required to protect the community. If a person commits the same offense, with the same fact pattern, and criminal history in Bristol Bay they will be released on their own recognizance to avoid transport costs and logistical hassles. Thus, creating a two-tiered criminal justice system, one urban and one rural.**

**Please don't let that happen. Please fully fund the Community Jails Program.**

**Thank you.**