

Alaska Police Standards Council

Alaska Department of Public Safety

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January 30, 2020

Senator Joshua Revak Chair: Senate State Affairs State Capitol Room 125 Juneau AK, 99801

Via E-Mail; Senator.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov

Re: Support for Senate Bill 164 – Standards for Peace Officers, Village Police Officers

Honorable Senator Revak;

I am writing as Chair of the Alaska Police Standards Council to express support for Senate Bill 164, currently referred to the Senate State Affairs committee.

This bill reflects the current standards of the law enforcement profession in Alaska and I strongly urge its passage.

For some time, the Council has struggled with the issue of enforcing minimum officer standards in rural Alaskan communities. We are acutely aware of the challenges in recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining officers in rural communities. This was a major concern as we established our regulatory standards and the primary reason the council adopted two sets of standards; more stringent for urban areas, and minimal requirements for rural officers. One area the Council has been steadfast in regulating is that we will not allow individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor sex or domestic violence crime to serve as a law enforcement officer. To do so places communities at great risk, is a disservice to victims of crime, and compromises prosecutions.

Our next public Council meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 where the full Council will take up this bill and its companion bill in the house. I feel extremely confident that the Council will support the proposed bills unanimously.

Respectfully.

Chief Justin Doll, Council Chair,

Alaska Police Standards Council

CC: APSC Council Members