

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 15, 2024

1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Matt Claman, Chair
Senator Jesse Kiehl, Vice Chair
Senator James Kaufman
Senator Löki Tobin

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Cathy Giessel

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

Dusty Dumont - Juneau

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Rebecca Carrillo - Auke Bay

William Craig - Sitka

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

DUSTY DUMONT, Appointee
Alaska Police Standards Council
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as the governor's appointee to the Alaska Police Standards Council.

REBECCA CARRILLO, Appointee
State Commission for Human Rights
Auke Bay, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as the governor's appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights.

WILLIAM CRAIG, Appointee
State Commission for Human Rights
Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as the governor's appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:30:56 PM](#)

CHAIR MATT CLAMAN called the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Kaufman, Kiehl, and Chair Claman. Senator Tobin arrived immediately thereafter.

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS **ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL**

[1:31:51 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN announced consideration of Dusty Dumont, appointee to the Alaska Police Standards Council. He invited Ms. Dumont to begin her testimony.

[1:32:14 PM](#)

DUSTY DUMONT, Appointee, Alaska Police Standards Council, Juneau, Alaska, testified as the governor's appointee to the Alaska Police Standards Council. She provided a brief overview of her employment history, education, and background. She expressed strong support for the Alaska Police Standards Council's mission and core services, stating that her personal values align with its goals. She noted that it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Council and that she takes the appointment seriously. She thanked the committee for its time and consideration.

[1:34:13 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN joined the meeting.

[1:34:56 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN asked whether she is a new appointee to the Council.

MS. DUMONT replied that this is a new appointment.

CHAIR CLAMAN asked whether she is currently serving on the Council.

MS. DUMONT replied in the affirmative.

[1:35:12 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL asked what the greatest needs of the Council are in terms of its work.

MS. DUMONT replied that the Council faces multiple challenges, such as:

- High vacancy rates among probation officers.
She stated staffing shortages has led to a high number of caseloads, causing the Department of Corrections to operate more reactively than proactively.
- Substance abuse plagues communities.
She highlighted a successful program in Palmer called "Crisis Now," which provides early intervention services. The program offers alternatives to incarceration, peer support, and mental health clinicians who engage directly with individuals in the field. She emphasized that expanding similar programs statewide could have a meaningful impact. She expressed hope that the State would move in that direction. She added that substance abuse treatment often addresses underlying issues beyond the addiction.

[1:37:08 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL asked where the legislature should focus its next efforts with respect to the needs of officers the Council certifies.

MS. DUMONT expressed her belief that officers not only need initial training but ongoing training to maintain statewide standards for all Council certified officers. She emphasized that training needs to hit home, hit hard, and be consistent. Practices that are repeated become natural to people. She believes training would be a good focus for the Council.

[1:38:16 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN referenced a past decline in the number of discretionary parolees and asked for her perspective on that trend. She inquired about potential practices that could be implemented to help ensure individuals were successful once discretionary parole was granted.

MS. DUMONT replied that supervisors hold discretionary parolees to a higher standard and greater level of accountability than mandatory parolees because discretionary parole allows individuals to serve part of their sentence in the community.

1:39:06 PM

CHAIR CLAMAN sought clarification, asking which group is held to a higher standard and which is supervised more closely.

MS. DUMONT replied that mandatory parolees are subject to a standard set of conditions, and a few of them apply. In contrast, the State Board of Parole may impose other conditions on discretionary parolees, such as placement in a halfway house prior to transitioning to electronic monitoring.

MS. DUMONT explained that for long-term offenders, a step-down program is often essential. The pace of change in society, such as reliance on cell phones, can be overwhelming for individuals who have spent extended periods of time incarcerated. She expressed her belief that better equipping individuals through structured transitions can improve outcomes. She cited positive results with peer-to-peer support programs.

MS. DUMONT expressed her belief that the State Board of Parole should not grant discretionary parole to every individual as some should absolutely remain incarcerated. However, she emphasized the value of programming while in custody. If the Parole Board asks individuals to complete programming and they do so successfully, a gradual transition through a step-down approach may be more effective than direct release. She noted that returning home can be overwhelming; individuals are immediately faced with bills, family demands, and children. There are expectations that many are not ready for, especially those who left a little bit of a destructive path behind them on their way to jail.

1:41:08 PM

SENATOR TOBIN remarked that she had seen a recommendation last year to lower the minimum age requirement for Department of Corrections (DOC) officers. She noted that individuals entering the profession at a younger age may still be undergoing brain development. This could affect their decision-making and it raises concerns about how past behaviors may surface once hired in that role. She asked about her thoughts on age requirements and how that dynamic might play out in this line of work.

MS. DUMONT said these are important questions and should be considered carefully. She replied that she has seen very mature 18-year-olds as well as very immature 29-year-olds and believes the key focus should be on the screening and training process. She acknowledged that there are risks to hiring individuals who may be more impressionable. She stated that she worked in a jail and the environment can be manipulative. She said it is a business like one she had never seen and emphasized the importance of being aware and protective.

MS. DUMONT expressed her belief that it is important to pair young officers with senior officers who can help their juniors glean some expertise and help them recognize warning signs and patterns of inmate behavior. She believes this would help prevent younger staff from becoming involved in situations that could cause harm. She expressed her belief that the lower age requirement would interest only a small population of younger recruits. Perhaps those preparing for a career in law enforcement but are not yet 21 and old enough to move forward in other roles.

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS
STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

[1:43:16 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN announced consideration of Rebecca Carrillo, appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights. He invited Ms. Carrillo to state her name for the record and proceed with her testimony.

[1:43:44 PM](#)

REBECCA CARRILLO, Appointee, State Commission for Human Rights, Auke Bay, Alaska, testified as a governor's appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights. She stated that she is a reappointee. She provided a brief overview of her employment history, education, and background.

[1:49:52 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN expressed appreciation to Ms. Carrillo for joining the committee.

[1:49:54 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN announced consideration of William Craig, appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights. He invited Mr. Craig to state his name for the record and proceed with his testimony.

[1:50:11 PM](#)

WILLIAM CRAIG, Appointee, State Commission for Human Rights, Sitka, Alaska, testified as a governor's appointee to the State Commission for Human Rights. He said this is a reappointment; he has served five years on the Commission thus far. He was chair for one of those years. He said it has been an honor to serve. He provided a brief overview of his employment history.

[1:50:45 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN commented that the committee had made efforts to obtain a copy of his resume and confirmed that it was received. He asked whether it was acceptable for the committee to have the resume on file.

MR. CRAIG replied yes.

[1:51:10 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN asked him to share a Commission experience that was particularly satisfying or interesting during his five years of service.

MR. CRAIG replied that it has been a personally satisfying period of rebuilding. He recalled that when he first joined the Commission it was difficult, explaining at one point there were only two commissioners and no executive director. The Commission now has an executive director and he praised Executive Director Robert Corbisier for doing an excellent job. He noted that staffing had been a challenge, as employees often left for higher-paying positions to support their families. He stated that serving on the Commission has been satisfying work and shared that the Commission received a clean legislative review in 2022, the year he served as chair.

[1:52:36 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN opened public testimony on the governor's appointees; finding none, he closed public testimony.

[1:53:09 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN solicited a motion.

[1:53:11 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL stated [that in accordance with AS 39.05.080,] the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Alaska Police Standards Council
Dusty Dumont - Juneau

State Commission for Human Rights

Rebecca Carrillo - Auke Bay

William Craig - Sitka

SENATOR KIEHL reminded members that signing the report(s) regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

[1:53:40 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN said the appointee's names will be forwarded to the joint session.

[1:54:12 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Claman adjourned the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting at 1:54 p.m.