

SCOMM

157:10

Denise Liccioli

From: Myron P. Naneng [mnaneng@avcp.org]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 4:45 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: Glass, John D (DPS); Spencer, Danial R (DPS); Rep. Richard Foster; Denise Liccioli; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Rep. Mary Nelson; Sarah_Palin@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: Re: Village of Kotlik Letter

Thanks Donny for following up on this request from Kotlik. Our VPSO program has added Kotlik to the list of villages that is requesting a VPSO position. We are still slotted for 19 VPSO positions with a coordinator, which is the same number as last year. Of the nineteen, one position was a floating one, which we now have to designate to a village. Our contract this year is for 19 positions, but we received a budget for eleven. DPS made this mistake and have stated that they anticipate having more funds available from the unused DHSS funds to be redirected at later date. We anticipated additional positions for villages that currently do not have VPSO's. Though the salaries were increased, there are no additional monies for fringe benefits, health and retirement benefits, nor additional positions. As winter is coming, we can anticipate a need for more VPSO's due to higher energy costs, which will create domestic problems and desperation. If Governor Palin feels that DPS should redirect it's funding to other needs in State, she should consider funding the FIRST RESPONDERS, VPSO's. As one health provider, who keeps a tally of funds used to deal with health issues, prevention is cheaper than dealing with it at the hospital. Quyan for consideration of the need for VPSO's, and we know it is not limited to just Kotlik, but to every village that is in rural Alaska.

"Sen. Donny Olson" <Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us> writes:
 Good afternoon,

I received a copy of a letter to Governor Palin from the Village of Kotlik regarding public safety issues in their community. I am very interested in getting your response to that letter.

It is my concern, and that of my colleagues from the rural areas around the State, for public safety in rural Alaska that was the impetus for the Senate VPSO Task Force last year, of which I was chair. Kotlik's letter echoes the main findings of that task force and presents an example of the kinds of situations and concerns that were the driving force behind the creation of the Senate VPSO Task Force. The Senate VPSO Task Force issued its report February 1, 2008.

There is one statement in the letter from Kotlik that is surprising to me. During the last legislative session, the Senate added additional funding to the VPSO program to increase VPSO pay, to add 15 additional VPSO positions beginning Oct 1, 2008, and to provide a small stipend to all communities with a VPSO to assist them with the cost of facilities. Not all of these increases made it to final passage, but the VPSO raise and partial funding for 15 additional VPSO positions (reduced from the Senate request to begin January 1, 2009 rather than

October 1, 2008) passed the full Legislature. So I am puzzled by the statement that AVCP had to eliminate a floating VPSO due to a budget cut to their operating budget. How can this be when funding was added to DPS to increase this program?

Another important recommendation of the Task Force was that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) would meet with the regional non-profits to come up with a short and long range plan. This was in Recommendation Number 3, which stated: "DPS and the regional non-profits should work collaboratively to develop and maintain a 5 and 10 year plan for the VPSO program, to include a status of the VPSO program and an update from the impacts of recommendations by this Task Force; and deliver a copy to the Senate by February 1, 2009". Some specific criteria to be included in that plan were identified in the details for that recommendation and included parameters to use in determining which locations should get a VPSO.

In addition to receiving your response to the Village of Kotlik's letter, I would also like an update on the status and progress of DPS meetings with the non-profits to comply with Recommendation Number 3 from the Senate VPSO Task Force report. If you have any questions, please contact my staff Denise at 465-3880.

Thank you.

Cc via fax to Della Hunt, 907-899-4790

Denise Liccioli

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 4:15 PM
To: Glass, John D (DPS)
Cc: Spencer, Danial R (DPS); Rep. Richard Foster; Myron P. Naneng; Denise Liccioli; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Rep. Mary Nelson
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VILLAGE OF KOTLIK
P.O BOX 20210
KOTLIK, ALASKA 99620
(907)899-4326 / 4836 FAX (907)899-4790

15 August 2008

Governor Sarah Palin
Juneau State Capitol
Juneau, AK
Fax: (907)465-3532
Email: { HYPERLINK "mailto:governor@alaska.gov" }

RE: Urgent Request for Improved Police Protection in Kotlik

Dear Governor Palin;

First, I would like to thank you for your efforts to resolving some of the major issues that we Alaskans are facing.

One issue that Rural Alaskan villages are unnecessarily facing is in-adequate law enforcement. Being so remote out here, *Kotlik especially does not have adequate police protection.*

This is an urgent request for the State of Alaska to assist the City of Kotlik with better police protection.

The Kotlik population is 600 plus, and currently the City of Kotlik has three (3) male Village Police Officers (VPOs) and one (1) female VPO, who is on call, to assist when a female is in custody.

It is my understanding that two VPOs are working one (1) hour a day, alternating with the third VPO the next day, but will respond to emergencies. The one hour set by the City of Kotlik is due to lack of funding which is unable to pay the VPOs their full wages. The VPO hourly rate is \$13.00. The point I am making clear is; one hour a day is not enough to protect the community of Kotlik.

With a set schedule of one hour, the City does not full coverage to enforce their Ordinance.

The City of Kotlik has had numerous VPO turnovers. Most if not all who were hired has had no experience and has not yet received training in law enforcement. The main reasons for the turnovers were resigning to seek better employment due to lack of hours that VPOs could not exceed; the hourly rate, and not able to receive full compensation.

For the past couple of years, the Kotlik Tribe has been desperately in search of someone to fill in the Village Police Safety Officer (VPSO) position in Kotlik, but to no avail. We

have not given up on searching, making it available to anyone interested. The reasons are that the person did not pass the trooper background check and there is no available housing in Kotlik for someone from outside the village wishing to relocate. I've been in close contact with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) regarding the VPSO program. I've requested for float VPSO, but have learned that due to the budget cut in the FY 09 proposal, AVCP had to eliminate the floating VPSO from their VPSO operating budget.

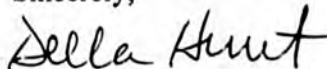
The Department of Justice COPS Hiring Grant that the Tribe has been desperately watching out for has not been available in the Request for Proposal for a couple of years.

The two Alaska State Troopers Kirsten Hansen and Williamson stationed in Emmonak serves the Villages of Emmonak, Alakanuak, Nunam Iqua and Kotlik. Conversing with the troopers, the statement made was they are very busy with all four villages.

Since the tragic death in Kotlik back in February 2008, there have been countless alcohol related illegal activities, just to mention a few: gunshots in the village, physical abuse, minor consuming alcohol. Elders and young children are fleeing from their homes late at night, increased reports to the Office of Children's Services and more frequent calls are being made to the Emmonak State Troopers, due to nature of the report that the local VPOs cannot handle.

In the City of Kotlik's case, we should not have to live in fear.

Sincerely,



Della Hunt
Tribal Administrator

cc: Representative Richard Foster
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Mary Nelson
Kotlik City Council
Association of Village Council Presidents

ALASKA STATE SENATE
SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

STATE CAPITOL - ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182



(907) 465-3880
FAX (907) 465-4821

FaxCoverSheet

To: <u>Debra Hunt</u>	From: <u>Denise Liccioli, Finance Aide</u>
Fax: <u>899-4790</u>	Date: <u>8/25/08</u>
Phone: <u>8994326</u>	Pages: <u>2</u> Including cover
Re: _____	CC: _____

Urgent ☐

For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐

•Comments:

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