

City of Bethel Action Memorandum

Action memorandum No.	21-31	
Date action introduced:	September 20, 2021	Introduced by Council Member Springer
Date action taken:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
Confirmed by:	K M	

Action Title: Authorizing the City Manager to amend the proposed Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Budget for Tranche #1 to allocate funding support to and invest in the KYUK 640 AM antenna replacement.

Attachment(s):

Amount of fiscal impact:		Account information:
\$250,000	Funds have been accepted by the City	66-70

Summary Statement

The City of Bethel finds it necessary to invest in the longevity of the services provided by our local public media partner, KYUK.

KYUK has served the Yukon Kuskokwim region for decades, transmitting news and information to close to 23,000 people in 36 communities. The nonprofit recently discovered that their 640 AM antenna tower is becoming unstable and sinking into the ground, threatening the tower's longevity. The Region relies on KYUK's continued transmission and the community organizations that benefit from KYUK can and should come together to help support our community partner and ensure continued effective and efficient distribution of lifesaving information.

In our region's ongoing response to COVID-19, KYUK disseminates emergency notices and orders; airs radio shows related to health and the impacts of COVID-19; and provides call-in shows for our residents to ask questions of our local healthcare team in both English and Yugtun. The services KYUK provides cannot be duplicated or replaced. KYUK gives residents with limited to no cable or internet access the opportunity to become and stay informed on COVID-19 and other emergency news like flooding and fires that impact their community. Additionally, local radio broadcasting plays a vital role in building our communities by bringing the needs of our region to the attention of not only local and state governments, but to the federal government as well, which has resulted in significant financial contributions to many local projects that may have otherwise gone unfunded.

KYUK's mission is to educate, stimulate, and inform the public by providing cultural enrichment, entertainment, and an opportunity for public access and Yup'ik language maintenance for cultural longevity. KYUK has long been a community partner that has and will continue to put our region's needs first.

The City of Bethel will receive a total award of \$1,589,809.31 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The City has received the first tranche of funding, \$794,904.65. The City's contribution and investment of \$250,000 to this regional effort supports long-term resiliency of our region and economic development.