

Resolution #37

Requesting Assistance from the Governor of Alaska, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Law for Proper and Adequate Police Service in the Bethel Area.

Whereas, the average trooper per urban population is 1 per 1,991 while the average trooper per rural population is 1 per 2,725; and

Whereas, the average trooper per urban area is 1 per 2,094 sq.mi. while the average trooper per rural area is 1 per 24,800 sq.mi.; and

Whereas, the Bethel area requires at least 3.5 troopers on the average for proper police protection; and

Whereas, the Department of Public Safety, although it is obliged by the State statute to provide said police protection, and although the last Legislature increased the total number of State troopers by 15, the Department has not provided adequate police protection for the area, and in fact has recently reduced the Troopers in Bethel to one; and

Whereas, this reduction has required the State Trooper now under full-time contract to the City of Bethel to leave the City from time to time on State business, in violation of said contract; and

Whereas, great numbers of people have been left without police protection promised by the State statutes, among them the villages of Akiachuk, Akiak, Alukanuk, Aniak, Cheforak, Chevak, Eek, Emmonak, Fortuna Ledge, Goodnews Bay, Holy Cross, Hamilton, Hooper Bay, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kotlik, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Mecoryuk, Mountain Village, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Newtok, Nightmute, Nunapitchuk, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Platinum, Quinhagak, Russian Mission, St. Mary's, Scammon Bay, Tuluksak, Tununak, Tuntutuliak, Toksook Bay, and others, including approximately 15,000 people; and

Whereas, emergencies in the above villages are delayed by State Police until a trooper arrives from Anchorage, 500 miles distant, and often 3 or 4 days away; and

Whereas, law and order in the Bethel area will deteriorate if the discriminatory procedures cited above are not ceased immediately;

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Be It Resolved By The City Council of Bethel, Alaska:

1. That the Governor of Alaska, the Commissioner of the Department of Safety, and the Chief Justice of the State of Alaska take note of this condition of law and protection in westward Alaska; and
2. That immediate assistance from the Governor, the Commissioner, and the Chief Justice follow this resolution, so that this critical problem will be alleviated, and inequities in the distribution of police adjusted fairly, throughout all of the State of Alaska.

Copies of This Resolution Shall Be Sent to Governor Walter J. Hickel, Commissioner Mel Personett, Chief Justice Buell Nesbitt, Senate President John Lutrovich, Speaker William Boardman, Senator Ray Christiansen, Representatives George H. Hohman, Jr. and John Westdahl, Magistrate Nora Guinn, and Council Presidents of All Villages in the Bethel Area.

Passed and Approved by the Council of the City of Bethel, Alaska

By a Vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays

This 10 Day of July, 1967.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk