



City of Bethel Police Dept.

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Bethel, AK 99559
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PUBLIC NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 -7:00 p.m.
300 STATE HIGHWAY – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AGENDA

Members

Joan Dewey
Chair

Eileen Henrikson
Vice Chair

Chuck Herman
Council Representative

Naim Shabani

Deborah White

Julene Webber

Ex-Officio Members

Andre Achee
Chief of Police

William Howell III
Fire Chief

Christina Him
Recorder

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF February 2, 2016
- VI. CHIEFS' COMMENTS
Fire Chief
Police Chief
- VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT
- VIII. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- X. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Concerns with Ayaprun's Relocation to the new BNC Building
 - B. YKHC's Hospital Expansion and Traffic Congestion
 - C. Consideration of the Resolution to "Support the Health and Well-Being of Our Children and Firefighters and Endorse the Toxic Free Children's Act"
- XI. COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Christina Him, *Recorder*

POSTED on February 23, 2016
POST OFFICE, AC QUICKSTOP, CORINA'S CASE LOT, CITY HALL, & POLICE DEPT.
Next Public Safety and Transportation Commission Meeting will be **April 5, 2016**

"Deep Sea Port and Transportation Center of the Kuskokwim"

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

February 2, 2016

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on February 2nd, 2016 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:10PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
 Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
 Julene Webber
 Eileen Henrikson

Absent: Deborah White
 Naim Shabani

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police* (via telephone conference)
 Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
 Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED:	Webber	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Webber	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 19 th , 2016.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell – *See Report in Commission Packet.*

Chief Andre Achee – *The Police Department did a location check for the liquor license applications and there were only 34 calls, essentially nothing that constitutes a high rate of calls. The recommendation is based on the number of calls and in this case, it is a small number.*

The department has hired one local police officer, Richard Ramos who will be attending the academy sponsored by APSC (Alaska Public Safety Commission) on February 28th. The other officer, if he passes everything, will also be attending the academy. He is from out of State, however his fiancée lives and works in Bethel. Our new CSP officer (Community Service Patrol) will be starting her position in mid February. We are still trying to maintain staffing; we have one officer and one dispatcher leaving later on this month.

We officially wrote to PERS (Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System) with a copy of the proposed 2 weeks on/2 weeks off schedule in hopes to attract more lateral offices that are experienced and trained. We will also be speaking with our Union representative about this since he will be in town as well as to discuss the police department's recommendation to City Council.

We had our first death of the year today. There appears to be no foul play and asphyxiation is possibly the cause of death. His remains have been released to his family.

Our CSP second quarterly report was completed yesterday. With the addition of our new CSP, we will be back up to full staff in our CSP program. Our last CSP lasted about 3 days. Our CSP program has been very good to us, they purchased a vehicle for us last year, but unfortunately it missed the last barge. This year the CSP program will be purchasing us another vehicle.

There are still staffing issues at the City's V&E (Vehicles and Equipment), however we have been authorized to take our vehicles to local private sectors.

Lieutenant Tracy with AST (Alaska State Troopers) retired last week, and there is new Lieutenant stepping in, Lieutenant Gonzalez.

Today we had a situation at ME school dealing with a potential kidnapping. We called the cab company and told them not to move and the cab was able to comply and locked the doors to prevent the individual from getting out. The cab companies have been really good about helping us out; they are the other eyes on the road.

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *The cameras in cab was brought up at the last meeting, however the City Attorney stated that confidential information might be coming over from the court system that might be influencing our decision. The topic will be postponed until the next meeting and we will see what that information is*

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire Department's Recommendation to City Council

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to recommend.
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

XI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Eileen Henrikson – *The City grant manager should look up community block grants to get more funding. I was also wondering about cameras in the cab, I read a few articles that the cameras were covered under FEMA grants and that was an interesting avenue to go down.*

Joan Dewey – *If we can think about potential candidates and promote ways for members to join this commission, that will be great because we are going to get low if anybody is traveling or needing to not be here, to have a quorum*

Chief Andre Achee – *Lieutenant Dave Tracey with Bethel's AST (Alaska State Troopers) will no longer be in Bethel, he is retired. There is a new lieutenant, Lieutenant Gonzalez that will be out here in Bethel.*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

APPROVED THIS 15th DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

Christina Him, Recorder

Joan Dewey, Chair



CITY OF BETHEL
Fire Department

William F. Howell III, Fire Chief
P.O. Box 1388, Bethel, Alaska 99559
Phone: (907)-543-2131
Fax: (907)-543-2702
bhowell@cityofbethel.net

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

DATE: March 1, 2016
TO: Pete Williams, Acting City Manager
FROM: Bill Howell, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: February 2016 Management Report

Current Events

- The Department was pleased to provide EMS standby for the visiting Secretary of Energy, Governor Walker and the Congressional delegation on their trip to Oscarville. The Bethel Fire Department, YKHC EMS, Life Med and the National Guard developed an EMS response and evacuation in the event of a medical emergency
- The Department in cooperation with the Public Safety and Transportation Commission developed recommendations to the Council regarding staffing in the Fire Department. We are coordinating with administration to determine budgetary requirements for the recommendations. The recommendation is attached to this report.
- On 02/13/16 – 02/14/16 the Fire Department hosted the National Fire Academy Leadership I for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Company Success course at the station. Department staff and volunteers received leadership training in the areas of decision-making, problem solving, planning and communication skills for Fire Service Company Officers. A letter from the instructor of this class is attached to this report.
- The Department, in coordination with administration met with Doug Brown of Brown Insurance Agency and now has all department vehicles insured at their full replacement value.
- The Department continues to work with administration and businesses to ensure compliance with State and City fire and life safety code as it pertains to licensure for alcohol sales. The Fire Chief attended the Planning Commission meeting on February 2, 2016 regarding alcohol sales applications.

Emergency Planning/Homeland Security

- On February 15, 2016, The Department met with City officials, the Army Corp of Engineers and members of Senator Murkowski's delegation to discuss concern following the release of the Donlin Gold Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Concerns raised by the Department were primarily focused on Haz-Mat, Fire and Spill response. Comments for review will be submitted to Administration for inclusion in the City's official response to the EIS.
- The Department is working with local businesses, commercial and industrial property owners to develop fire emergency plans.
- Firefighters are conducting address and map checks. Street signs and house numbers needing replacement or updating will be brought to Planning and Road Maintenance

Training

- On 02/02/16 at 7:00 p.m. an EMT Meeting was held at the station where responders reviewed respiratory emergencies, assessments, and intervention with practice scenario drills.
- On 02/11/16 at 7:00 p.m. a Fire Meeting was held at the station where responders reviewed using techniques and procedures to conduct firefighter rescue and mayday with practical scenarios.
- On 02/16/16 at 7:00 p.m. an EMT Meeting was held at the station where responders reviewed pediatric assessments and the utilization of Broselow Tape to properly identify the correct sizes of equipment and dosages of emergency medications for these patients. EMT's conducted practice scenarios.
- On 02/25/16 at 7:00 p.m. a Fire Meeting was held at the station where responders reviewed how to conserve breathing air while wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus and operating with moderate to heavy workloads. Firefighters participated in an obstacle course consisting of multiple strenuous and repetitive task stations until their low-air alarm sounded in an effort to establish a baseline amount of time for each responder's usable breathing air during fire suppression and rescue operations.
- Captain Solesbee is coordinating with the Firefighter-1 students who need refresher training in order to take the State of Alaska Firefighter-1 and Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations written examinations.

Responses

- The Bethel Fire Department responded to 92 EMS and 9 Fire incidents during the month of February.

- On 02-01-16 at 6:23 p.m. medics responded to Sixth Avenue for the report of an intoxicated person who was holding their stomach, screaming. The patient was assessed by medics, but was combative. The patient was transported to the YKHC Sobering Center by the Bethel Police Department Community Service Patrol.
- On 02-02-16 at 10:13 a.m. medics responded to the area of Jacob's Way for the report of a person unresponsive and not breathing. Upon arrival, medics found a person who was deceased. The scene was turned over to the Bethel Police Department for an investigation.
- On 02-16-16 at 8:50 p.m. firefighters responded to the area of Front Street for the report of smoke coming from a building. Upon arrival, firefighters observed the Bethel Port Office building emitting smoke and flames. Firefighters extinguished the fire and returned to quarters. The cause of the fire undetermined, foul play is not suspected.
- On 02-18-16 at 1:49 p.m. medics responded to the Blackberry Drive for the report of a person who was not breathing. Upon arrival, medics found a deceased patient. The scene was turned over to the Bethel Police Department.
- On 02-21-16 at 11:30 a.m. firefighters responded to Kusko Court for a report of a lift station smoking. Upon arrival Fire Officers found an electrical fire forming in the wall of a house near the lift station. Firefighters withdrew and called AVEC to disconnect power to the residence. Once power was removed firefighters extinguished the fire. The cause is under investigation.
- On 02-18-16 at 4:50 p.m. firefighters responded to Sixth Avenue for the report of a structure fire. Upon arrival, firefighters observed smoke and flames emitting from an abandoned home. Firefighters extinguished the fire. The cause is under investigation.
- On 02-23-16 at 3:58 p.m. medics responded to the area of Akakeek Street and Delapp Drive for the report of a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian accident. The patient was assessed and transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.
- On 02-25-16 at 8:12 a.m. firefighters responded to Hanger Lake Road for the report of a vehicle fire. Upon arrival, firefighters found an SUV fully involved in fire. Firefighters quickly contained the blaze. Bethel Police Officers have identified a suspect in this case and are planning on filing charges.

Vehicles & Equipment

- Due to short staffing in the V&E department approved use of a private sector mechanic to complete repairs to Department vehicles. Time and materials to restore both department ambulances to a safe and functional condition totaled \$6918.00. The Fire Department vehicle repair budget is almost depleted due to this expenditure.
- A work order has been put in to V&E to repair stuck valves and leaking pump packing's on E-3.

Budget/Financial

- With 66% of the budget year elapsed the Department is at:
 - 84% of FLSA overtime
 - 101% of callback overtime
 - 142% of leave cash-out
 - 126% of insurance
- Record call volume in 2015 and the new three hour minimum callback have contributed to overages in FLSA and Callback overtime. Additionally, with only one person on two of three shifts, as we train new employees, coverage for employee leave must be done using FLSA overtime. Additional employees and fewer in training should reduce the Department's dependence on overtime. We will discuss options with Administration and Finance.
- Unanticipated costs for Ladder Truck testing and asbestos training following the Kilbuck Fire is a point of concern. These costs were submitted to Administration with the intent of securing reimbursement from the School District's insurance company. Costs, if not reimbursed, will be applied to our purchased services account.

Grants

- The Department has begun the application process to the FEMA 2015 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. We seek to hire as many as four additional firefighters to comply with NFPA 1720 requirement that mandates a minimum initial response of 4 fire fighters for a first arriving fire engine. This grant has a two year performance period and no match or retention requirement. A Council resolution supporting this project is being placed in the March 8th council packet. The application is due March 25th.
- The Department is applying for funding through the 2015 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. We seek funding to replaces aged turnout gear and fire hose. This application was submitted on time. The project requested is budgeted at est. \$130,000 and requires a 5% match. Funding announcements are normally made in September of the following year.

- FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Is complete. All goals and objectives of the project were met. Final closeout reports will be submitted when available to file.
- The Department has identified funding opportunities for federal fire prevention grants expected to open in April of 2016. The Department will seek to hire a consultant to assist with development of a comprehensive emergency planning and annual inspections program.
- Final Purchases are being made with excess funds under the Alaska Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program. We will file close out reports once purchases are complete.
- The Department in coordination with the Grants Manager, Police Chief and Port Director has applied for funding of: portable radios, compressed air foam fire extinguishers for police and fire vehicles, security camera systems for City buildings and light plants for the Port through the 2016 Homeland Security grant. Total funding requested is approximately \$430,000.

Staffing/recruitment

- All positions are filled minus our FY 15 defunded FF/EMT position.
- The Department has several qualified applicants in the event of vacancies.

Recommendation to City Council

Committees and Commissions that wish to make a recommendation to City Council should turn this form in to the City Clerk or to the City Council representative on the committee or commission.

Committee/Commission: Public Safety and Transportation Commission	Chair: Joan Dewey
Date Submitted:	Council Rep: Chuck Herman

Issue:

The Public Safety and Transportation Commission believe the Fire Department is understaffed for mid- and long-term needs. The Department has the following seven full-time career positions identified in the FY 2016 Budget: Fire Chief, Fire Captain, four Firefighter/EMTs, and one Firefighter/EMT position that was defunded in FY 2015. Thus, only six career positions are currently funded and filled.

Current staffing levels require firefighters to cover shifts on overtime whenever another employee is on leave or cannot find volunteers.

The Fire Captain must work days part-time in addition to the 24-hour Kelly Shift to meet the operational and administrative demands of the Department and community. The staff members and volunteers are being stretched thin to cover the demands of the ever-increasing amounts of mandatory requirements, standards compliance, fire and EMS responses, fire investigations, and daily equipment, vehicle, and station maintenance duties.

In 2015, the Fire Department experienced its highest EMS response call volume in two decades; 1,182 calls for service. This is an increase of 45% (370) over 2008 levels. When considering alcohol-related call volume from 2008 (282) to 2015 (603), these calls for service have increased by 113% (321). This rise in call volume caused an increase in the payout of call-out overtime and standby pay to our staff members who are “called-out” to respond to calls while they are off-duty. The Bethel Police Department’s Community Service Patrol, an outstanding program, has not reduced alcohol related call volume. In fact, EMS responses to alcohol related incidents have increased dramatically since the inception of the CSP program in 2011.

Though staffed at 1990s level, the department has experienced its highest call volume in over two decades. The department anticipates and is planning for a surge of alcohol related responses when alcohol package stores open in the spring/summer of 2016. The department believes that there is a strong correlation between alcohol access and alcohol related call volume.

Recommendation:

The Public safety and transportation committee recommends that the Bethel City Council fund two new Firefighter EMT positions immediately as a modification to the FY 2016 Budget, the defunded (FY 2015) Firefighter EMT position and one additional Firefighter EMT position.

Two additional positions will provide two career Firefighter EMTs per shift. Further, this staffing enhancement would allow the Fire Chief to place the Fire Captain position on day shift, so that he can better manage training, compliance requirements, community inspections, and planning.

The commission believes there would be an immediate cost savings in the FLSA and Callback overtime budgets to help offset the expenditure of the added employees. The Commission believes that overtime savings in the Fire department and future revenues anticipated from legal alcohol sales will provide sufficient funding to cover the cost of the recommended positions for the balance of FY 2016. The addition of two additional firefighters and a day-shift Fire Captain, will immediately improve public safety in Bethel. The Department has qualified applicants ready to hire, when authorized.

4848 San Felipe Rd. #150-123
San Jose, CA 95135

February 18, 2016

Hon. Richard Robb, Mayor
City of Bethel, AK
300 State Highway
PO Box 1388
Bethel, AK 99559

Good day Mayor Robb:

Please allow me to express my gratitude to the City of Bethel, members of Bethel Fire Dept, and especially Fire Chief Bill Howell and Fire Captain Daron Solesbee regarding a Leadership Training Session which I facilitated at the fire station, on the weekend of Feb. 13 and 14, 2016. Naturally being held on the weekend required all attendees to sacrifice normal weekend family related activities.

This class was granted under policies of the U.S. Fire Administration, in conjunction with Alaska State Fire Training, and it was through the efforts of these two Bethel Fire Officers that it was presented at your city. Just securing this class in your jurisdiction took a lot of competitive work, including research, filing of paperwork and cooperation with other state fire agencies, on the part of Chief Howell and Fire Captain Solesbee.

Over many years of facilitating such classes I have seen varying levels of cooperation with staff and class participants. Bethel Fire excelled in these areas. Capt. Solesbee and I were in frequent contact to insure all necessary pre-class preparations were on track and in place. Chief Howell insured that the facility and daily considerations were attended to in a timely manner. The student participants followed their leaders example by being on task and on time, always engaging in active participation.

Routine station activities were handled before or after class or on class breaks. Emergency responses were covered with a minimum of class disruption, and a willingness to remediate any information needed. All mandated materials were covered, with interesting discussions and positive attitudes by all.

In closing I was very impressed by the attention to preparation, the courtesy extended to me and the professionalism displayed by all who attended this challenging course. Consequentially all passed the final exam, and a few had a perfect score, outstanding!

Please extend these comments to your city government members as well as the entire Bethel Fire Dept. and their leadership cadre, for a job well done and a successful training experience.

Sincerely,



Joseph Doherty, NFA Contract Instructor
Emeritus Professor, Fire Officer.

c: Fire Chief Howell,
Fire Capt. Solesbee

CITY OF BETHEL
POLICE DEPARTMENT



DATE: March 1, 2016

TO: Ann Capela, City Manager

FROM: Andre Achee, Chief of Police 

RE: Police Officer Retention Plan

Over the past several years the Bethel Police Department has had difficulty recruiting and retaining police officers. The low patrol staffing has a direct effect on the responses to various types of calls for service that police officers respond to daily.

Over the past decade we have tried various options to improve staffing of Bethel police officers. Various incentive programs have been introduced to assist with the recruitment of police officers. Some of these programs proved successful on recruiting officers, but fell short on the retention of these officers.

Bethel, like most off road system communities, is a difficult environment to work and live in. The factors contributing to this includes remoteness, cost of living, transportation and social outreach. It takes a special type of individual to not only live here, but to be able to work here as well.

The difficulty in filling and retaining police officer positions is compounded by the required regulatory checks police officers must meet and pre-employment requisites candidates must satisfy prior to employment.

Recruitment and retention is not just a Bethel or rural Alaska issue, it has been a hot topic of discussion in the entire state of Alaska and nationally.

Over the past 10 years, the difficulty in retaining and recruiting police officers for the City of Bethel has been well documented. Though we have tried several incentive programs to solicit interest in becoming a police officer, the one area that has not changed is the police officer pay scale. This pay scale has remained unchanged in the past decade.

Though a starting (new hire) police officer can be placed anywhere in the pay scale at the discretion of the department head (chief of police); a current police officer cannot be advanced forward within their pay scale because of limitations set forth in the collective bargaining agreement.

In the past, a department head hired new police officers at a starting salary higher than the salaries of current police officers, who were additionally tasked with training the new hires with less experience and certifications than their trainer. This created a separation within the ranks and diminished the already low morale of the police personnel.

My goal is simple, to bring existing police officers to a competitive level with what most public safety / criminal justice agencies are offering in rural Alaska. The average wages are between \$30.00 to \$35.00 an hour (not including benefits).

I feel this would help with the retention of current police officers in keeping the knowledge and expertise they attained here, working for the Bethel Police Department. Additionally, future police officers would have a competitive wage that would allow them to afford to live in Bethel.

This retention plan would not require any budget modification approval from City Council. The currently salary savings (as of March 1, 2016) is \$168,000.00. If the plan is approved, effective April 1, 2016, it would only affect the current salary budget by \$22,157.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year. The salary changes will be continued to be worked on for the upcoming fiscal year.

Currently, when this retention plan takes place, the Bethel Police Department will have three (3) police sergeants, (2) certified police officers, (2) recruit police officers (at academy) and a police chief patrolling the City of Bethel.

The retention plan would increase the (3) police sergeants and (2) police officers (APSC certified) salary no more than 30%, or their maximum pay rate in their salary scale. (2) Police sergeants will receive approximately a 30% increase, (1) police sergeant approximately 10% (maximum) and (2) certified police officers approximately 30%.

Once we have taken care of our current staff, we can concentrate our efforts on recruiting future police officers with the hopes of maintaining a stronger commitment to the community and department by providing them with fair compensation for working, living, and being a part of Bethel.

City of Bethel Action Memorandum

Action memorandum No.	AM-		
Date action introduced:		Introduced by:	Ann K. Capela
Date action taken:		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
Confirmed by:			

Action Title: Bethel Police Officer retention plan.

Route to:	Department/Individual:	Initials:	Remarks:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Police Department		Recommend Approval
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance Department		Recommend Approval
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Attachment(s): Memorandum regarding Police Officer Retention Plan

Amount of fiscal impact:		Account information:
	No fiscal impact	
\$22,157.00	Funds are budgeted for.	10-61-501
	Funds are not budgeted. Budget modification is required.	

Over the last decade, the staffing of sworn police personnel at the Bethel Police Department has been inconsistent and rocky at best. Recently over the past few years, the difficulty of filling and retaining qualified personnel has been compounded by the cost of living and direct competition from other off road system agencies throughout Alaska, and more recently with agencies on the road system.

The Bethel Police Department has developed a retention plan that will hopefully address some of the issues on retaining qualified and trained staff locally. This plan does not require any budget modification to the current budget of the police department and would be funded by currently salary savings.

We envision that the retention plan, combined with new hire starting pay modification and creative scheduling proposal will address some of the retention and recruitment crisis we will be soon facing if nothing is done.

The current police officer staffing effective 4/1/2016: Police Sergeants (3), Certified Police Officers (2), Police Officer Recruits (2 at academy), and (1) Police Chief. A total of 8 of the 14 staffed sworn positions (6 sworn positions that can patrol Bethel).

We urge you to review and approve the proposed retention plan.

CITY OF BETHEL
POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT: FEBRUARY 2016

2016	February
New Chauffeurs	0
Chauffeur Renewals	2
Chauffeur Transfers	0
Vehicle Permit Renewals	2
Vehicle Transfers	1
Inspections	8
Revocations	0
Temporary Permits	0

- Camai cab had its semi-annual inspection conducted in the month of February, no issues noted here.
- There were 2 complaints made, both were for Kusko Cab's chauffeurs who were observed to be smoking inside of their vehicles. Both chauffeurs were issued a written warning letter. A copy of the letter was also sent to Kusko Cab. This will be noted in their chauffeur files as well. Pursuant to BMC 5.40.060 D:

It is unlawful for any chauffeur or passenger in a regulated vehicle to smoke any cigar, pipe, or cigarette or to burn tobacco or any other material in such vehicles **at any time, regardless of whether or not passengers are riding in the vehicle.**

- There were 5 traffic stops/officer observations associated with cabs this month.

TITLE: SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND FIREFIGHTERS AND ENDORSE THE TOXIC FREE CHILDREN'S ACT

WHEREAS: The community of Bethel has recently suffered multiple outbreaks of fires in residential areas, and fire-safety and the men and women who serve as firefighters remain critical components of our community's safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Bethel City Council is to enhance and promote the cultural, social, and economic livelihood of the Bethel community; and

WHEREAS: Toxic exposures continue to threaten the health of our community-members, children, and firefighters, due to outdated laws at the State and Federal level; and

WHEREAS: Chemicals intended as fire-retardants and used in manufacturing of household goods are found in our traditional foods, our environment, our subsistence fish and game, our bodies, and our homes, even though these chemicals have never been produced in Alaska or the circumpolar Arctic; and

WHEREAS: Research has demonstrated that rural Alaskan populations are at higher risk from these toxic substances that are persistent and bioaccumulate in the environment, the food web, and in the human body; and

WHEREAS: These chemicals are uniquely dangerous in areas where individuals spend a relatively high amount of time indoors in poorly ventilated areas, such as colder regions during the winter; and

WHEREAS: Research has further shown that our firefighters are uniquely at risk because when burned these chemicals are released into the air supply and permeate standard protective gear; and

WHEREAS: Firefighters have especially high rates of several types of cancer, including thyroid, bladder, prostate, testicular, breast, brain, multiple myeloma, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and a recent study found that the rate of breast cancer among female firefighters aged 40-50 is six times the national average; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature has already passed legislation acknowledging that firefighters with certain types of cancer may be presumed to have contracted that illness as a result of work-related activity and are eligible for significant payouts from the State; and

WHEREAS The Alaska State Firefighters Association has passed a resolution condemning the use of these chemicals in manufacturing of home furniture and children's products, citing their ineffectiveness and the serious health risk they pose for Alaska firefighters; and

WHEREAS Senate Bill 111 will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of ten toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. It will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals. Chemical flame-retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children when breathed as smoke, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council urges the Alaska State Legislature to protect the health of our children and firefighters by passing the Toxic Free Children's Act.