



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 Bethel, Alaska 99559

907-543-2297

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Introduced by: Council Member Miller

Date: February 13, 1996

Action: Passed

Vote: 6-Yes, 0-No

RESOLUTION #96-6

A RESOLUTION PROTESTING DECREASES IN THE STATE'S MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE AND REVENUE SHARING, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE AML'S "REVENUE SHARING FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES" PROGRAM, AND URGING ITS ADOPTION.

WHEREAS, municipal governments provide well over half of all direct government services to the citizens of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the state has steadily raised local municipal taxes over the past ten years by disproportionately reducing municipal government's share of Alaska's oil wealth and indirectly mandating state service responsibilities to municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Local Boundary Commission found that cities and boroughs are "penalized" by the state for incorporating because the state has withdrawn revenues and services promised at the time of incorporation; and

WHEREAS, in rural municipalities, revenue sharing is critical to maintaining the most basic public safety and health services; and

WHEREAS, according to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, in 1992 the average state government contribution to local government revenues was 34.2% in the entire U.S., and 42.1% in the Far West States, including Alaska. The average state support to municipal governments in Alaska is 36.3% despite Alaska's extremely wide variation in local wealth and taxable resources; and

WHEREAS, the SAFE COMMUNITIES program is a rational method of implementing the state's Long Range Financial Plan, and

WHEREAS, the major goals of the SAFE COMMUNITIES program are to:

1. **Stabilize the revenue sharing money to our communities.** Under the proposed program, the state revenue sharing appropriation would never be less than 3% of the state operating budget. This compromise will show that municipalities are willing to help balance the state budget, but not shoulder a disproportionate share. (In the past ten years, MA/RS has been cut by over 55% while the state operating budget has stayed about the same.) Stability for funding revenue sharing is the primary goal of the AML/ACoM.
2. **Consolidate and simplify the Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing statutes.**
3. **Prove that all the money is spent for critical municipal basic public services.**
4. **Ensure that our communities get a fair share now and in the future.** (The proposed changes eliminate "winner and loser" communities)

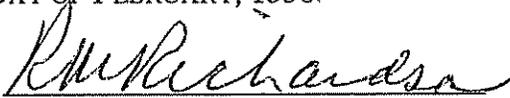
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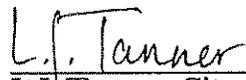
5. Set a \$40,000 minimum funding level for incorporated communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT THE "REVENUE SHARING FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES" PROGRAM.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1996.


Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk