Introduced by: Council Member Leinberger
Date: February 26, 2008
March 11, 2008
Action: Failed
Vote: 4-3

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #08-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL WING ON THE YUKON KUSKOKWIM CORRECTIONAL CENTER FOR TITLE 47 RELATED SERVICES

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2005 the Bethel City Council passed Resolution 05-33 requesting the State of Alaska allocate funds for the expansion and improvement of the State of Alaska Correctional facility in Bethel; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2006 the Bethel City Council passed Resolution 06-14 supporting the expansion of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center and expressing interest in pursuing discussions with the State of Alaska Department of Corrections regarding the possible expansion and the City of Bethel's involvement thru issuance of lease revenue refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, one of the most significant impacts to the workload of officers of the Bethel Police Department is time involved in dealing with intoxicated individuals who are unable to care for themselves (PC/protective custody); and

WHEREAS, the handling of PCs involves transport to the Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Center, however if no medical staff is available at the Correctional Center or if the detoxification holds are occupied by other inmates (there are only two holds with an occupancy limit of five each), the officer must take the individual under PC to the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Hospital Emergency Department for medical clearance; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Department staff must attend to patients with critical needs before attending to individuals under protective custody and officers are sometimes detained at the hospital for up to an hour, and sometimes up to four hours, if it is necessary for the officer to remain due to fears of any physical harm the individual under PC may do to themselves or to others; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Police officers, during an average day, transport 3-4 PCs to the Emergency Department, but that number can be as high as 13; and

WHEREAS, this a very inconvenient and time-consuming system and causes the Bethel Police Department significant man hours; and

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WHEREAS, after discussions between the Department of Corrections, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center and City of Bethel Administration, all parties are supportive of amending the plan for the expansion of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center to include an additional wing that would provide adequate space for both medical staff, provided by Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Hospital, and individuals under protective custody until their time of release and provide an acceptable solution to an long-time problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bethel City Council requests the State of Alaska appropriate an additional $1,500,000 for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center expansion to add an additional wing dedicated to serving the needs of those individuals under Title 47 protective custody.

ENACTED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH 2008 BY A VOTE OF ___IN FAVOR AND ___OPPOSED.

_____
Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Lori Strickler, City Clerk