

RESOLUTION NO. 271

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING A DISTRICT RECORDER IN THE DISTRICT RECORDER'S OFFICE IN BETHEL, ALASKA.

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Bethel a District Recorder in the District Recorder's Office for the purpose of recording and filing land transaction documents, and has existed for many years, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Department of Administration is considering abolishing the District Recorder position in Bethel whereby recording would be completed by mail to the main recording office in Anchorage only, and

WHEREAS, the Bethel service district for the District Recorder presently provides services for an area with over 50 villages, which are spread over 90,000 square miles, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act has been inacted and will stimulate land transactions in this region for many years in the future, and

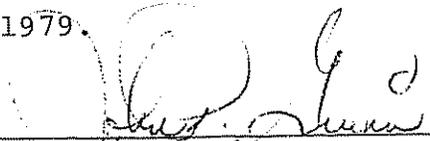
WHEREAS, personalized assistance and knowledge of local affairs are invaluable to the residents of this City and region.

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bethel, City Council is in support of maintaining a District Recorder in the District Recorder Office located in Bethel, Alaska.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council hereby requests the Governor and the State Administration to reconsider its decision to close this most needed office before the January 1, 1980.

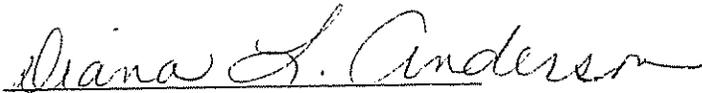
PASSED AND APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL

THIS 26th DAY OF November 1979.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

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TO: Governor Hammond

As representative of the fifty-seven villages I am in full support of Resolution No. 271 of the City of Bethel. As all these villages that have native allotments and all corporations need the recorder's office Bethel as it is the hub for our area, not in Anchorage.

Most all the people do not have any money to travel to Anchorage.

All of the native villages will be receiving over 100,000 acres in the very near future and in total this represents over one third of a million acres alone in this region. The funding for this one district recorder in Bethel to cover these 90,000 square miles is a necessity. Your earliest response would be greatly appreciated regarding this request.

cc: Javan M. Beitinger
941 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Senator George Hohman
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Vernon L. Hulbert
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Phillip Guy
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Mr. Charles R. Webber, Commissioner
Department of Commerce & Economic Development
State Office Building
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH D

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

December 6, 1979

Mr. Lyman F. Hoffman
City Manager
City of Bethel
P.O. Box 388
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

Commissioner Webber is out of the office at this time, and so I am responding to your letter of November 29 and the resolution of the Bethel City Council to him regarding the department's action to close the Bethel office of the Alaska Land Recording Office (ALRO).

Let me first say that the action taken by the department to close the Bethel office was done only after considerable thought and consideration for the budgetary constraints imposed on the services of the ALRO for FY '80. The ALRO operates on program receipts, i.e., it must charge fees to pay for all costs incurred in providing services to the public. What it amounts to is that we have only so many dollars to provide ALRO services to Alaskans state-wide. The history of extremely low volume of transactions processed by the Bethel office, in comparison to other ALRO offices in the State, since the Bethel office was established in 1975, simply left no other alternative to the department but to close that office and transfer the recording functions to Anchorage. For example, only about 1,000 documents had been recorded in the Bethel office in 1978 (only 565 for the first two-thirds of 1979), whereas almost 7,000 were recorded in Nome in 1978. The average number of recordings per employee for the Nome, Kenai, Palmer (including Talkeetna), Ketchikan (including Petersburg and Wrangell) ALRO offices was about 5,100 for 1978.

I am told by the supervisor of the ALRO that approximately 65% of the documents received for recording by the Bethel office come by mail. It is our belief that the Bethel area will actually get better service through the more efficient use of personnel allocated to ALRO state-wide.

The department will monitor the volume of activity out of the Bethel-Kuskokwim area, and if, in the future, it increases to such an extent as to warrant an increase in staff of ALRO and reopen the Bethel office,

Mr. Lyman F. Hoffman

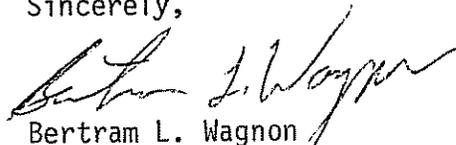
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December 6, 1979

that course of action will be seriously considered. Again, I can empathize with you on the closing of the Bethel office and the resultant loss of one State job in the Bethel area. However, I hope that you can understand that the closure will allow ALRO to provide better service to Alaskans throughout the State.

Thank you for conveying the thoughts of the City Council to this department.

Sincerely,



Bertram L. Wagnon
Deputy Commissioner

BLW/s127T

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P.O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone 543-3521

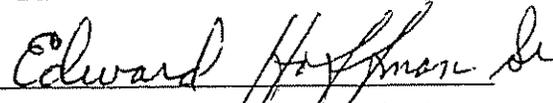
RESOLUTION NO. 80-16-01

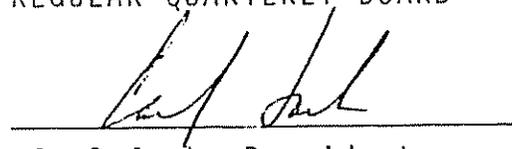
- WHEREAS; The Alaska Land Recording Office (ALRO) have been established in Bethel for the last 40 years, and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Commerce and Economic Development in 1979 made an effort to close the ALRO in Bethel but was unsuccessful due to the objections of the residents of 57 villages in the AVCP region, and
- WHEREAS; Upon the recommendations of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, the Governor took action to close Bethel ALRO, and
- WHEREAS; The reason for closing Bethel ALRO is attributed to budgetary constraints that can be resolved from the State's Oil Royalty funds, and
- WHEREAS; The AVCP region shall not get better services for the recording of domestic vehicles; recording of land transfers resulting from the implementation of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and other real estate transactions nor will lend to efficient processing of these transactions if ALRO remains in Anchorage, and
- WHEREAS; Hardship will fall on the residence of AVCP region if the office is maintained in Anchorage due to unavailability of travel funds to Anchorage, and
- WHEREAS; The expression of empathy by the Governor shall not resolve the problem, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on behalf of the 57 villages that AVCP Board direct the Governor to reopen the Bethel ALRO and staff it appropriately to handle cases related to the responsibilities of ALRO;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that AVCP Board call on: Senator Sacket; Senator George Hohman; Representative Phillip Guy; Representative Vern Hulbert and Representative Nels Anderson to assist AVCP to meet with Governor Hammond for purposes of reopening the Bethel ALRO for reasons stated above.

APPROVED AND PASSED THIS 16th DAY OF JANUARY, 1980 BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF AVCP AT THEIR REGULAR QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING HELD IN BETHEL, ALASKA.


Edward Hoffman Sr., Chairman


Carl Jack, President

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Mrs. Annie Wassilie
District Recorder
Bethel, Alaska

DATE: November 14, 1979

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Javan M. Beitinger *JB*
State Recorder
Anchorage, Alaska

SUBJECT: Bethel Office

Due to the low volume of recordings in the Bethel Recording District, and the need for the position elsewhere, it has become necessary to close the office there. January is the tentative date. You will be getting a formal notice from personnel.

The department will make every effort to find a placement for you with the state. You are on the register for a Clerk Typist and Personnel has suggested you apply for an Eligibility Worker I position. Health and Social Services uses that register. You should also check other state offices and apply for any position you feel you could qualify for.

Annie, I sincerely regret that this action has become necessary. A written response would be appreciated. Any job possibilities, ideas or suggestions would be appreciated. The department would like to find a placement for you, should you so desire. I hope this can be resolved in the best interest for you and the state.

cc: June Reiger