



CITY OF BETHEL

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907-543-2297
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Presented By: Council Member Miller
Date: April 22, 1997
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

RESOLUTION #97-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BETHEL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING CONTINUED FUNDING FOR KYUK RADIO/TV AND ARCS-TV.

WHEREAS, funding from federal and state sources has been greatly reduced over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Broadcasting Incorporated, which operates KYUK Radio, KYUK-TV and ARCS-TV received only \$280,000 in state funding for Fiscal Year 1996, compared to \$1,051,786 in Fiscal Year 1991 -- which represents about a 75% reduction in funding; and

WHEREAS, any further cuts to public broadcasting will cause significant downsizing of Bethel Broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in workforce will affect the quantity and quality of programming produced by Bethel Broadcasting, particularly local news and public affairs programs aired on KYUK Radio and rural news coverage on ARCS-TV; and

WHEREAS, Midday Alaska, recently recognized by the Alaska Press Club for its outstanding public affairs coverage, is scheduled to be taken off the air on May 9th, due to anticipated lay-offs; and

WHEREAS, the loss of local and rural oriented programming would be seen as a tragedy to the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the rest of the state; and

WHEREAS, KYUK Radio/TV and ARCS TV are important not only to the city of Bethel, the entire Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, but the entire state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, KYUK is a vital member of the community, contributing to the preservation of Yup'ik language and culture and the Bush lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Broadcasting plays a vital role in assisting the Kuskokwim Campus, the Lower Kuskokwim School District, the Lower Yukon School District, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, and the National Guard in providing distance education via instructional television; and

WHEREAS, KYUK is invaluable to local organizations in promoting healthy living, access to government and economic development; and

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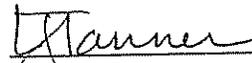
WHEREAS, Bethel Broadcasting contributes almost one million dollars a year in payroll to the local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, urges our fellow citizens, state legislators and Congressional delegation to support Bethel Broadcasting to the fullest extent possible, particularly during the KYUK Radio Spring Fund-raiser, to be held April 26th-May 3rd.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 1997.


Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


I.J. Tanner, City Clerk