

Introduced by: City Manager Herron
Date: March 25, 2003
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #03-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH MUNICIPALITIES FOR NEW OR EXPANDED PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska recognizes the pressing need to reduce overcrowding in its prisons and bring home the 600 plus prisoners that are presently housed in out-of-state correctional facilities, and;
- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska expends approximately \$20 million annually to transport and house prisoners in out-of-state facilities; funds if expended in the State of Alaska could significantly benefit state and local economies, and;
- WHEREAS,** The development of new or expanded prisons in Alaska's municipalities would benefit Alaskans by providing much needed construction and permanent year-round prison jobs, and;
- WHEREAS,** Maintaining prisoners within the state allows for them to be closer to their families and culture which enhances the potential for prisoner rehabilitation, and;
- WHEREAS,** Expansions of many of Alaska's existing prisons can be accomplished more cost-effectively than by constructing new prisons, and;
- WHEREAS,** The Department of Corrections has a long-standing history of providing consistent correctional practices that protect the public's safety, allow for community participation through government-to-government transactions and address statewide and regional construction needs, and;
- WHEREAS,** Because of over-crowding, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Facility has basically become a "pre-trial facility" rather than a regional correctional facility for sentenced prisoners to be located near the respective families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bethel Council supports the comprehensive statewide approach to prison development, where the financial and clinical benefits of expanding existing prisons are equally considered with the development of new prisons.

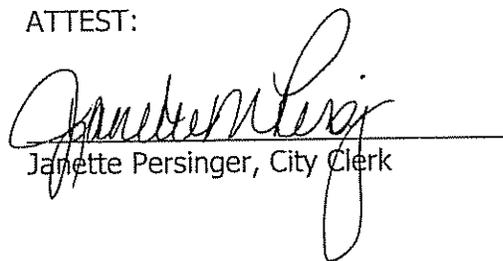
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Bethel Council supports Senate Bill 56 or similarly drafted companion bill, an Act authorizing the Department of Corrections to enter into agreements with municipalities for new or expanded public correctional facilities including Bethel.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF MARCH 2003, by unanimous voice vote.



Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Janette Persinger, City Clerk