



Presented by: City Manager Weaver
Date: January 27, 1998
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

CITY OF BETHEL

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RESOLUTION #98-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PROPOSAL TO EXPAND REGIONAL CORRECTIONS FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, virtually all of Alaska's jails and prisons are overcrowded, there are far too many inmates for the bedspace available, and

WHEREAS, overcrowding jeopardizes public safety by increasing violence in correctional institutions, increasing the possibility of escapes, and forcing premature release of offenders into communities, and inhibits the state's ability to provide badly needed treatment and rehabilitation programs; and

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim correctional Center (YKCC), a regional facility which serves the entire Delta area, was built for 88 inmates, but is frequently required to house up to 130 inmates, despite efforts to place unsentenced misdemeanants in halfway houses, and send sentenced felons to other correctional facilities, and

WHEREAS, the chronic overcrowding at the YKCC has continued unabated longer than any other correctional facility in the State, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections has formulated a three-part strategy to address the problems posed by the increasing prisoner population.

1. Reduce the number of low-risk offenders entering jails and prisons,
2. Decrease the length of time spent by low-risk offenders in correctional facilities,
3. Increase the population capacity in regional correctional institutions; and

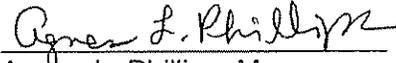
WHEREAS, for Bethel, the plan proposes to increase capacity by 48 inmates, by adding 24 double-occupancy cells.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, supports the Department of Corrections and their statewide approach to managing Alaska's prisoner population.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1998

ATTEST:


L.J. Warren, City Clerk


Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

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Page 1 of 1 pages