

Introduced by: Mayor Short
Date: October 28, 2003
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0 Unanimous

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #03-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL
AFFIRMING CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES;
REQUESTING IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF FEDERAL
MEASURES THAT MAY INFRINGE ON CIVIL
LIBERTIES**

WHEREAS, the preservation of civil rights and liberties as guarded by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights is essential to the well-being of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments should protect the public from terrorist attacks such as those that occurred on September 11, 2001 and should do so in a deliberate fashion to ensure that any new securities measures will enhance public safety without impairing constitutional rights or infringing on civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, in light of the horrific act of terrorism against the U.S. citizens and numerous other nationalities on September 11, 2001, it was a natural response on the part of the government to take actions to prevent such acts of terrorism in the future; and

WHEREAS, there is growing concern across the nation that language in the U.S. Patriot Act has expanded the government's power to use eavesdropping, surveillance, access to financial and computer records and other tools to track terrorist suspects in ways that were not fully understood by the public or elected officials at the time of its

enactment; and

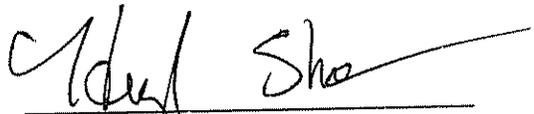
WHEREAS, the intent of this resolution is not to undermine the efforts of our elected officials to protect its citizens, nor to criticize the valiant men and women in law enforcement or military service, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council requests members of the U.S. Congress to immediately re-examine the U.S. Patriot Act that it passed in October 2001, amending any portion of it that infringes upon the civil rights of U.S. citizens. This sweeping legislation required intense public review and comment before it was passed and enacted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bethel City Council urges Congress not to re-authorize any provision in the U.S. Patriot Act or enact the proposed U.S. Patriot Act 2 without thorough public review of these Acts.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003, by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

ATTEST:



Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor



Amanda Roudébusch, City Clerk