Introduced by: Acting City Manager John Malone
Date: July 12, 2005
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1 (No: Rodgers)

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 05-27

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING ACCOMODATING THE BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the current 30-year old Bethel Police Station is not adequate to serve the growing Bethel population of 6,000 and the thousands of city and village residents who come to Bethel for short-term stays;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council and the Public Safety and Transportation Commission recognize that the Bethel Police Station needs: a larger evidence room, improved building security system, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, and heated garage bays for vehicles and evidence gathering area;

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turn over rate;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission met in Bethel on April 6, 2005 and heard testimony from several people on the need for a new public safety building in Bethel;

WHEREAS, the need for a new public safety building was clearly documented in the Tundra Drums newspaper article, *Police Too Close for Comfort in Makeshift Squad Station*, published on April 7, 2005 and the Delta Discovery newspaper article, *Bethel Police in Need of a New Home*, published on April 13, 2005;

WHEREAS, Chief of Police Ben Dudley, Lieutenant Andre Achee, and the Public Safety and Transportation Commission believe that a new public safety building would make a substantial difference in the Bethel Police Department's ability to recruit and retain police officers, dispatchers, evidence custodians, and other department positions;

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WHEREAS, the Bethel Public Safety and Transportation Commission approved Resolution 05-02 on June 7, 2005 supporting a new public safety building in Bethel that would house the Bethel Police Department and other law enforcement agencies;

WHEREAS, a new Bethel public safety building owned by the City of Bethel has the potential to include lease space for other locally based law enforcement agencies, including, but not limited to: Alaska State Troopers, district attorney's office, attorney general's office, adult probation officers, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Transportation Security Administration;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, a new Bethel Public Safety Building has the potential to be located on a high point in the center of town overlooking the Kuskokwim River—a place previously identified by the Bethel City Council as an ideal location for such a facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports the design and construction of a new Bethel Public Safety Building that has the potential to accommodate the Bethel Police Department and other interested law enforcement agencies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council believes that a new Bethel Public Safety Building would greatly enhance the Bethel Police Department's ability to: perform its duties, recruit and retain qualified officers, foster career promotions from within, safeguard evidence, protect its vehicles and equipment, and achieve a reduction in crime that will make Bethel a safer and more desirable place to live.

ENACTED THIS 12th DAY OF JULY 2005 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.

Hugh C. Dyment

Hugh Dyment., Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandra Modigh, City Clerk