



# CITY OF BETHEL

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Presented by: Mayor Wintersteen  
Date: September 5, 1995  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No

## RESOLUTION #95-45

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE REQUEST TO ADD A PROSECUTOR POSITION IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND A PUBLIC DEFENDER POSITION IN THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, AND TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE IN THE BETHEL AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel is a second class municipality, with a population of approximately 5000; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Bethel depend on the State of Alaska to provide adequate resources for the criminal justice system in Bethel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel District Attorney's Office must handle cases from the 56 villages that make up the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, an area the size of Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Yukon-Kuskokwim region leads the nation in child sexual abuse and sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, Bethel ranks eighth in the state in population, but first in the amount of cases per attorney in the District Attorney's Office; and

**WHEREAS**, the State currently employs three attorneys in the District Attorney's Office, a number that has not changed in the past four years; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of cases referred to the District Attorney's Office has increased by 80% in the last four years, without a corresponding increase in manpower; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Office prosecuted 66% more sex crimes in FY93, with three attorneys, than the Fairbanks Office, with eleven attorneys, and domestic violence cases constituted 34% of the FY94 cases in the Bethel Office; and

**WHEREAS**, with the current situation, felony cases will be dropped due to a lack of resources and criminals will be allowed to walk our streets without fear of incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Bethel has demonstrated its willingness to search for a long-term solution to the problem of violence in the region through town meetings and agency interaction, but requires assistance from the State for the immediate safety of its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL** that it supports the request of the District Attorney's Office to fund at least one additional prosecutor position in the Bethel office and one defender position in the Public Defender's Office, and to add an additional judge in the Bethel area.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council calls upon Governor Tony Knowles to demonstrate his commitment to stopping crime and violence in Alaskan communities and provide the resources necessary to provide fair and swift justice to those that threaten the safety of our residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council calls upon the citizens in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to seek help before turning to violence, recognizing that we must participate in solving our own problems in the community, and for people to take responsibility for their action.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1995.

  
Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Connie Tucker, City Clerk