



CITY OF BETHEL

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Presented by: Council Member Chris
Date: September 26, 1995

Action: Passed
Vote: 4-Yes, 3-No (Harding, McComas, Miller)

RESOLUTION #95-49

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING ALASKA NEWSPAPERS, INC. SUBSTANTIATE ACCUSATIONS MADE IN THE EDITORIAL APPEARING IN THE SEPTEMBER 7, 1995, *TUNDRA DRUMS* NEWSPAPER.

WHEREAS, the September 7, 1995, issue of the *Tundra Drums* newspaper contained an editorial stating "Bethel has a reputation of questionable election practices over the years", and "It is common knowledge that during past elections on the liquor issue, people have been brought to Bethel, ... registered to vote, and once the election was over, returned to wherever they came from."; and

WHEREAS, the accusations in the editorial cast a question over the election returns for the past 18 years; and

WHEREAS, the common knowledge referred to in the editorial has never been reported to the City Council; and

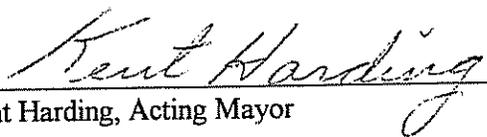
WHEREAS, the City Council is responsible for the integrity of all municipal elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bethel City Council that the editorial in the September 7, 1995, *Tundra Drums* defamed the City of Bethel through hearsay and innuendo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council recognizes the freedom of the press to state an editorial position, but we hold that the unsubstantiated statements that appeared in the editorial on page four of the September 7, 1995, edition of the *Tundra Drums* and represented as fact, are in fact inaccurate and constitute irresponsible journalism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council requests Alaska Newspapers, Inc. investigate and substantiate the accusations made in the *Tundra Drums* editorial, and present such documentation to the Council for its own inquiry into the allegations, or retract the editorial and apologize to the people of Bethel.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1995.


Kent Harding, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Tucker, City Clerk