**City of Bethel**
**Public Safety Commission**
**Regular Meeting of**
**[Amended as per direction at the March 4, 1996 meeting]**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM, at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska, By Chairman Vanasse.**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present: Mayor Richardson, Chairman Gary Vanasse, Tom Hildreth, Bruce Day, Shari Neth, Don Constatine,**

**Absent: John Hastie, Gary Peltola [Both excused]**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

motion made by Mr. Hildreth and 2nd by Mr. Day, to amend the minutes of the January 3, 1996, regular Commission meeting.

Part II, Called to order, to be Changed: "Wally Richardson City Council Representative" to "Mayor Richardson interim City Council representative."
Part VIII A: To include: Mr. Tom Hildreth Vice Chairman
Part VIII B: Change "3 members serve 2 years" To read "2 members serve 2 years."
Chairman Vanasse also requested that Last names rather than first names be used in the Minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Hildreth and 2nd by Mr. Day, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 1996, regular Commission meeting as amended by voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

motion Motion made by Mr. Hildreth, 2nd by Mr. Day to approve the amended agenda to include Item E: Complaint Procedures. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. CHIEF'S REPORTS**

Chairman Vanasse said that Chief Young had called him Friday and stated that he would be unable to attend this meeting. Chairman Vanasse also requested that both Chief's submit a written report before the meeting even if it is only one sheet stating that there is no report for that time period.

Chief Liu reported that the Police Department did a lot of training in January. In February they put a hold on most of the training. He has issued Special Order 96-01 redesigning the Department Organization to spread the supervisory control more evenly.
He also issued the 1995 activity report in January.

**VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Constantine stated that he was glad to be part of the Commission and was looking forward to working with everyone.
Ms. Neth Welcomed Mr. Constantine to the Commission. She also thanked the Police Department and volunteers for the recent bootlegging arrests and asked that a letter of appreciation be submitted from the Commission to have a public record of it.
She was concerned about the word Exofficio in reference to Gary Peltolas status; that it might be misconstrued as him having an official rather than advisory capacity to the Commission.

Mr. Hildreth welcomed Mr. Constantine. He said he had a concern from a citizen to request that weapons, even those carried by off duty officers, be banned from the Commission meetings because of recent incidents of postal employees shootings.

**VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS, Continued.**

Chief Liu stated the Department Policy on off duty officers carrying weapons is that once they go through the training and qualify they are allowed to carry them. He stated that an officer that is qualified to carry a weapon has had a much deeper background and psychological check than a postal employee.
The subject was dropped.

Chairman Vanasse stated that this was only the Commission's 2nd meeting. These meetings now will always be held at 7:00pm on the 1st Monday of the Month at the Log Cabin.

**VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Ron Peltola addressed the commission with a complaint, he didn't understand why his son was arrested and handcuffed when he was charged with 3 misdemeanors. He perceived the Department as targeting Natives by selective enforcement.

Chairman Vanasse asked Chief Liu, "what is the policy on arrests?"

Chief Liu Stated that it is up to the discretion of the arresting officer to use or, not use handcuffs. He said that this was an on going case and was uneasy about addressing it. He also stated he had reviewed the incident and found the officer had acted in accordance with proper policy and procedures in making the arrest. He also stated that selective enforcement, it is not tolerated by the Department.

Ms. Neth asked, is it Okay to make the suggestion that Mr. Peltola and the Chief get together with the City Manager to resolve this issue?

Chairman Vanasse asked Mr. Peltola what kind of resolution he was looking for. Mr. Peltola stated, he just wanted to have it on the record.

**VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD, Continued.**

Mr. David Trantham addressed the Commission about house Bill #383. having to do with the City of Bethel getting reimbursed by the State on their mandate of picking up P.C.s. He asked the Commission to support the bill. He asked that some items be placed on the next agenda. one. Is it unacceptable to be drunk in public? two. Should the City hire two police officers? His third item, Alcohol Delivery site, was already on the agenda.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**ITEM A: Crossing Zone at Ridgecrest Update.**

Ms. Neth made a suggestion to table this issue until the next meeting due to lack of current information.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM A: Press Release Policy.**

The Police Department's Press Release policies were discussed. It was revealed that the policies were workable. no action necessary.

**ITEM B: Impoundment Procedures.**

There was some discussion about the Impoundment Procedures, towing services available and the new impound lot that is in the works. Problem being remedied, no further action necessary.

**ITEM C: Alcohol Delivery Site.**

Ms. Neth discussed the revenue possibilities in placing a tax on liquor brought into Bethel, the possibility of placing a deposit on each bottle and marking the bottles to track them as well as limiting hours at a delivery site.

Mr. Constantine brought out that revenue and control were two separate issues. The legalities and practicalites of these issues were discussed.

**ITEM C: Alcohol Delivery Site, Continued.**

Mayor Richardson said for the Commission to look further into this and make a recommendation to the Council. It was decided for Ms. Neth to bring an update on this issue to the next meeting.

**ITEM D: Public Safety Department's Concept**

Mayor Richardson explained the idea of combining the Fire and Police Departments under the Administrative Supervision of one person heading a Public Safety Department.

A discussion about the differences in the Departments and communities that had tried this merger ensued. Chief Liu said that Barrow had done a study on this issue. He also said that The City of Bethel had looked into this several years ago. Mayor Richardson asked him to supply the Commission with that Study. This issue would be readdressed at the next meeting.

**ITEM E: Complaint Procedures.**

After discussion about current City and Police complaint procedures it was suggested that the Commission may need to come up with their own policies on this issue.

The Commission requested that a copy of the City complaint form and the Police Departments policy's on complaints be mailed out to the Commission within the next week, so they could review and come up with ideas for the next meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

motion Motion made Mr. Hildreth, 2nd by Mr. Constantine to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS_____DAY OF _____, 1996.**

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**Chairman Gary Vanasse**

# CITY OF BETHEL

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FAX # 543-4171


To: Members of the Public Safety Commission
Citizens in Bethel

From: Ruth Richardson, Mayor

Date: February 29, 1996

Re: Police Department Audit Report

To insure that we have a police department that is responsive to the general public, the previous council had allocated funding for a performance audit this fiscal year. Through the recommendation by the City Manager, the Council approved the police performance audit to take place on January 4,5,6 of 1996.

The three team members that performed this audit were very knowledgeable in the law enforcement area. Through extensive on-site evaluation and interview, the auditors finalized their report and presented it to the City on February 12, 1996. In the report, there are many recommendations that were made to help bring our police department up to the national standard. Like many other agencies, our police department can be improved in many areas. The council had met with the Police Chief Chris Liu on February 27, 1996 to discuss the audit report. The Chief agreed that this report would be a blue print for both the professional and organizational growth for the department staff.

Because of the nature of police work in conjunction with classified information, we are not able to provide the audit report for your review. However, we are providing you with most of the audit recommendations. The council intends to follow all the recommendations made by the audit team ~~following~~ Barring any budgetary constraint. We also plan to have another review next year to evaluate the progress made by the police department.