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AVCP
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Administration
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The Voice of the Region



Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyak
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

June 20, 2016

[VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL DELIVERY]

Mr. Shane Iverson
P.O. Box 468
KYUK Radio
Bethel, Alaska
shane@kyuk.org

Mr. Iverson,

KYUK's recent reporting regarding the Association of Village Council Presidents' (AVCP) June By-Laws Convention had the great potential to educate the tribes and general public about how AVCP is making adjustments to strengthen itself in order to best serve the people of the region. The opportunity was there to provide a critical public service.

Instead, your reporting beginning June 14, 2016 through yesterday June 19, 2016, by Adrian Wagner, is filled with inaccuracy, bias, and an apparent lack of understanding of the facts, and/or an unwillingness to accept that the storyline you started out with would not stand up to the truth.

AVCP understands that not every media story will be positive, all we ask is for coverage to be fair and accurate. Your current reporting contains blatant factual inaccuracies which a non-biased news outlet would have confirmed before proceeding to print. Mr. Wagner repeatedly states his opinion rather than fact.

Below are some key points from your stories that are simply untrue:

- 1) AVCP was not "near bankruptcy," in November of 2015 as you have reported, nor is it today. As reported at the meeting, the organization is financially strong and growing stronger.
- 2) AVCP did not receive more than \$9 million last fall. AVCP is a class member of a class action lawsuit for which a settlement has been approved, but AVCP has not received any funds to date. Information about that settlement is public record, and something your journalist could have easily fact-checked for accuracy prior to reporting. You have since changed the article replacing the word "received" with "awarded," but you have done nothing to undo the impact of that inaccuracy.
- 3) AVCP is not being investigated by three different auditors. AVCP is not under investigation. We are undergoing a routine financial audit by one outside firm, something all organizations of our size must do in order to continue receiving grant

funds. These facts, along with the name of our auditor, were made clear to those in attendance at the June 8 meeting. Furthermore, your story states that there is a link between these alleged "audits" and the TANF story you have persisted in re-printing. That connection is false and purposely misleading.

Those three false statements alone create an inaccurate picture of AVCP, and have the potential to seriously undermine the vital service AVCP provides this region.

KYUK's inaccurate reporting betrays bias in favor of a small group in this region. The June 14, 2016 article states that the AVCP convention planned for February was postponed by AVCP "administration." The decision to postpone the February convention was made by the legal board of AVCP, the Executive Board. KYUK is aware of that fact because it has a copy of the letter sent from our Executive Board to the tribes in January explaining their decision.

Mr. Wagner describes Mr. Napoleon as a whistleblower. Whistleblower is a legal term that has significant meaning in this context. Mr. Napoleon is not a whistleblower in the legal sense of the word, or any other. This basic misunderstanding about who and what you are reporting on, permeates every aspect of this story.

Finally, Adrian Wagner's article asserts that AVCP would not comment on questions raised by your reporter. That is also untrue. AVCP sent an email to KYUK on Friday, June 10 in response to a phone call. In that email, AVCP expressly stated that the organization is in a strong financial position.

KYUK has a responsibility to the people of our region to report the facts – facts that are based on first-hand knowledge and accuracy. As an organization, we expect KYUK and its reporters to demonstrate extreme care for the facts moving forward.

AVCP's top priority is doing what is best for the people of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Regards,



Liz Pederson
General Counsel
Association of Village Council Presidents