

QANEMCIT

October 2019

Nunaput umyuallgutuk pinirluteng-lu, Tegganerpuk qigcikluk pirpakluki-lu, ayagyuaput-lu ciuliqagcimaaut yuuyarakun.



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President's Letter



Waqaa! What a year it has been! We have seen big things happen and we have seen little things happen. They all are coming together to help us bring better services to our clients and a stronger voice for our region. Quyana to my staff. It is all because of the vision we share, the teams we are building and our support for each other and our region.

This year we have been the “first out on the ice” in addressing public safety issue – and by that I mean, we have done our homework. Examples include: our Public Safety Facility Assessment, the Statewide VPSO Strategic Plan, a Public Safety Summit. Thanks to these efforts, we have been heard. We created a way for entities to work with Alaska tribes, not just through state government, but also at the national level. We now have a public declaration of a rural public safety emergency from the U.S. Department of Justice, that opened up funding for all Alaska tribes. We have made a good start in tackling this very, very large issue. We will continue to work at this level so that our people will feel safer in their homes and communities.

Rising tides raise all boats. I find myself saying that lot recently and I'll tell you why. Over the past three years, through our QIP and in developing our strategic plan, it has become more and more important to always keep in mind that we exist as AVCP to serve all 56 tribes and advance the voice of our region as a whole.

Keeping that in mind, one important component of working together as a whole, is through proposing and passing resolutions. At our annual convention this year, the delegates discussed and voted on 11 submitted resolutions. Quyana to our Tribal Services team who worked hard to remind everyone of deadlines and provide the submitted resolutions to all of the AVCP tribes, because the process by which those resolutions are vetted is extremely important to our region as a whole.

This year, the majority of our resolutions reached beyond our region, to lift up our people. They will work as a pathway to advance our region in state and national issues, in a way that will benefit our people. I am referring especially to the resolutions recognizing Pete Kaiser and Sen. Lyman Hoffman, support of the Alaska State Legislature Village Public Safety Officer Working Group, supporting the 2020 Census, funding for public safety infrastructure and the continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact. Appropriate resolutions will be forwarded to the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. I hope to see many of you there. It will be a big convention for our region as we honor both Pete Kaiser and Senator Hoffman in Fairbanks.

As the tide rises, we *must* move together. In order to do this, I encourage you to grab a cup of coffee and review each of our resolutions. This is the first time AVCP is including the resolutions in a newsletter. In publishing the resolutions, we hope to provide the opportunity for all of our people to have an understanding of the resolutions passed by the convention as a body.

President's Letter

One of the biggest things that has happened is AVCP filed our 2018 audit on time and we reduced our audit findings from 25 to six in just two years! That is something to be very proud of. If I were speaking with you on-on-one, I would feel the need to take a pause in order to fully appreciate this accomplishment and what it means for the future of our region. This accomplishment is amazing.

For an organization as large as ours, to be able to make that much improvement in just two years reminds us of what we are capable of when we come together to focus on a goal. It is proof that the QIP is working, in many ways. Our goal is to come out of this second phase of the QIP with quarterly financial closes and even fewer audit findings. We hope that quarterly closes will put less stress on our Finance team at the end of every year. We plan to meet our goals by putting controls in place and repeating functions until they are patterns and become second nature. This is one of the ways we are starting to make change, and it's working.

Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Quiana,



Vivian Korthuis

CEO



Employee Spotlight

Serena Solesbee

Healthy Families Extern

Serena Solesbee is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in social work (BSW), and one of her last assignments is to complete 400 hours (two semesters), of on the job training. She has begun an externship with our Healthy Families Department, and her focus and purpose will be to exercise her knowledge and get hands on work practicing skills and concepts that she's learned in class. Data collection and program evaluation are required and she will engage in various department meetings and trainings.

Serena chose Healthy Families at AVCP because she was interested in a program that focuses on community

wellness specifically in our region, the Y-K Delta. She hopes to gain knowledge about resources and what the department offers the people and is very excited to participate in Healthy Families workshops and Qasgiq's. She even hopes to get the opportunity to travel with the department when they receive requests for workshops in the villages.

The daughter of Roderick and Martha Demientieff, the eldest of six children, and the first granddaughter on her mothers' side, Serena was raised with the benefit and opportunity to grow up closely with her grandparents in Kasigluk, Alaska. Being the oldest of her siblings, Serena grew up with a lot

of responsibilities and she says that trait has stuck with her. She remembers a bit of advice her grandparents gave her when she was growing up. Nobody will do anything for you. You must work hard towards what you want in life- Hard work pays off.

Between her full-time job, seven children (five of her own and two fosters), and her externship with AVCP Healthy Families, she is very busy but her faith in God and support from everyone, especially her husband Daron, keeps her moving forward.



Growing Our Own

Tribal Services Provides University Training

On Oct. 9th & 10th, 2019, Tribal Services arranged for a two-day course titled: Tribal Membership & Enrollment.

This course (TM 250) is provided by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Kuukskokwim Campus.

Tribal Services arranges travel for tribal administrators, bookkeepers, and clerks, in order to provide this opportunity to expand and refresh their skills while also providing a university-endorsed career path in tribal governance. Students of this course will receive one (of nine) credits, which will count toward an occupational endorsement. UAF is currently working with the Tribal Service Department to establish a occupational endorsement program through UAF. This program is in the process of being established in the UAF catalogue.

This course was attended by staff from tribal councils including: Hamilton, Kalskag, Kotlik, Nunam Iqua, Napakiak, Chevak, Tuluksak, and Kipnuk!



Tribal Courts Master Series Trainings

On Sept. 17th & 18th, 2019, the Tribal Justice Department hosted its third Tribal Courts Master Series Training. This third part of the training series focused on court forms.

On Oct. 29th & 30th, 2019, Tribal Justice will host part four of the Tribal Courts Master Series Training, focusing on judges.

These trainings are open to tribal court judges, clerks, administrators and tribal council members that act as tribal courts.

All training materials are published on our website and can be found at: <http://www.avcp.org/tribal-justice-training-materials/> There, you will find presentations and forms. In some cases we recorded the full presentations and made them available to the public on YouTube! Check out our Tribal Justice playlist on YouTube by clicking on the image below!

The image shows a screenshot of a YouTube channel interface. At the top, there are navigation links: HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS (which is underlined in blue), CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, ABOUT, and a search icon. Below this, it says 'Created playlists'. There are four main video thumbnails displayed:

- Tribal Justice**: Shows a man speaking at a podium. It has 3 videos and was updated yesterday. A large blue arrow points from the left towards this thumbnail.
- Healthy Families**: Shows two women laughing. It has 1 video.
- ICWA**: Shows a woman speaking. It has 1 video.
- Workforce Development Pipeline**: Shows two men. It has 1 video.

Below each thumbnail, there is a 'VIEW FULL PLAYLIST' link.

Client Success

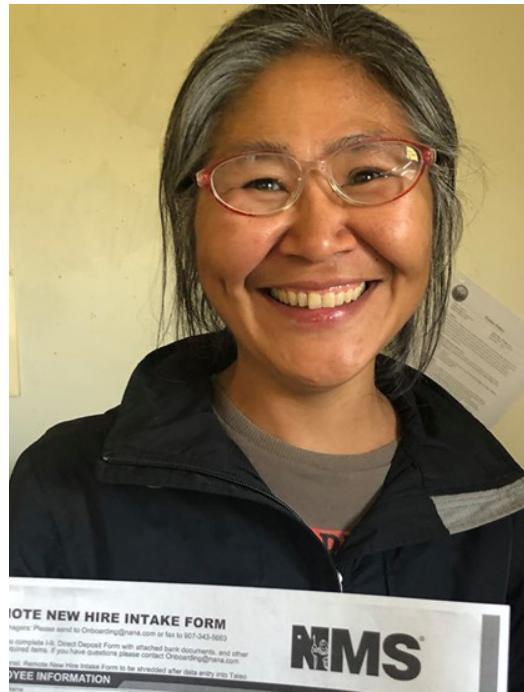
Tribal Workforce Development

Every Monday we publish a Facebook post congratulating a client on their personal success.
#MotivationMondays

This post (right) was submitted by Sylvia Nerby, St. Mary's Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, congratulating Ariana Paukan. This #MotivationMondays post got 295 likes, 153 hearts, and 41 wows on Facebook!

Sylvia's post:

Ariana Paukan came into my office and asked me to help her find a job either in Bethel or Anchorage. She was offered a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) position with YKHC but had to decline due to no housing. She came back into the office and applied to Prestige Care and Rehabilitation Center in Anchorage and was offered a CNA position with them. She will be starting Tuesday, October 1. She has applied with the EET Department for Employment funds to help her with her move. She also took her DMV test and passed. Ariana stated that every time I needed something done, not only did you help me finish but you also found other resources that applied to me. Good job Ariana!!!!



This post (left) was submitted by Marie K. Anthony, Nightmute Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, congratulating Eleanor Charlie. This post got 60 likes, 7 hearts, and 3 wows on Facebook!

Marie's post:

This is Eleanor Charlie. She applied here at Nightmute's TWD Job Center. Today she filled out New Hire packets and was told she is hired for the Kitchen Helper position under NMS at Negtemiut Elitnaurviat.

2020 U.S. Census

What you need to know

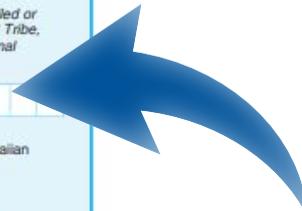
This year, AVCP passed a resolution titled: *A Call for Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Region Tribes to Encourage Full Participation in the 2020 U.S. Census.*

The U.S. Census will start in Tookook Bay in January. Read the National Public Radio (NPR) article title: Why the U.S. Census Starts in Alaska's Most Remote, Rural Villages by clicking [HERE](#).

Person 1	
<p>5. Please provide information for each person living here. If there is someone living here who pays the rent or owns this residence, start by listing him or her as Person 1. If the owner or the person who pays the rent does not live here, start by listing any adult living here as Person 1.</p> <p>What is Person 1's name? Print name below.</p> <p>First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name(s) _____</p>	
<p>6. What is Person 1's sex? Mark <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONE box.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>	
<p>7. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? For babies less than 1 year old, do not write the age in months. Write 0 as the age.</p> <p>Print numbers in boxes. Age on April 1, 2020 Month Day Year of birth _____ years _____ _____ _____</p> <p>→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.</p>	
<p>8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Cuban <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. ↗ _____</p>	
<p>9. What is Person 1's race? Mark <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one or more boxes AND print origins.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. ↗ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow-Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. ↗ _____</p> <p>Name of Your Tribe HERE _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. ↗ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Some other race – Print race or origin. ↗ _____</p> <p>→ If more people were counted in Question 1 on the front page, continue with Person 2 on the next page.</p>	

The Census collects and provides important data that Congress uses in legislation and is used by other entities.

Your participating in the U.S. Census will have a direct impact on your tribe's funding for housing, roads, healthcare, and many other programs managed by your tribe.



Question #9

This question is very important because it determines the funding your tribe will get.

Please have conversations with your community so everyone understands how important this question is to your tribe and your tribes' funding tribes do not lose out on funding.

Remember that you will have to enter this information for every person living in your household.

If you are unsure about the tribe your foster child is enrolled in, please contact the child's case worker.

Economic Development

2019 YK Energy, Environment, Economy, Work Session

Harnessing our collective strengths.

On Aug. 6th, 2019, in Bethel, Alaska, more than 21 organizations sent representatives to attend this work session that came out of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Click [HERE](#) to read the CEDS Executive Summary.

Program

An updated program can be found on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

This program includes the “3E” visions and shared goals, strategies, and actions, and the names and organizations of others who can help. Agnew::Beck has corrected the names of presenters, as some of our presenters were weathered out or forced to cancel because of major conflicts.

Contact List

The contact list can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

It includes everyone that registered for the work session, before or onsite.

Work Session Notes

The team at Agnew::Beck has captured the great work everyone did in small breakout groups, and as a whole, to identify priority actions and next steps.

See the notes by clicking [HERE](#).

Presentations

Check out eight presentations from focus-area presenters by clicking [HERE](#).

Next steps

Immediately following the work session, regional partners started the dialogue on next steps, including the proposal to use 2019 Work Session outcomes to reactivate and reconsider Y-K CEDS Committee membership and a process for engaging other regional, state and federal partners in developing and implementing action plans for regional priorities.

We also want to hear from you if you see an action you think you can help with now/in the short-term (next 1 to 3 years), or if you have ideas for immediate next steps.

Reach out to [Clarence Daniel](#) to learn more.

(907) 543-7461

cdaniel@avcp.org

Shared Goals

1. More local and regional jobs and businesses (e.g., in renewable energy technology, new housing design/construction) increase the financial resources and capacity needed to adapt to environmental and other changes.
2. Energy costs are lower and stable because buildings are energy efficient and communities use renewable energy.
3. Present and future environmental change is understood better.
4. Community infrastructure meets community needs, accommodates anticipated environmental change, and is built and maintained with regional resources.
5. The health of the natural environment that supports subsistence and traditional culture is protected.
6. The region’s people and communities enjoy good health, wellness and safety.
7. The region has a well-educated and trained regional workforce and future leadership. Youth are engaged earlier and more often in business operation, community leadership and service provision.
8. Projects are supported by in-region resources as well as investment from outside the region.

Public Safety

Department of Interior (DOI) Public Safety Listening Session

Aug. 21, 2019

AVCP invited member tribes to send representatives elected by their respective tribal councils, to provide testimony at this event on behalf of their tribe, in Bethel, Alaska.



Opening Speakers

Tara Sweeney,
Assistant
Secretary, DOI
Office of Indian
Affairs

Kate MacGregor,
Deputy Chief of
Staff, U.S. DOI

Jennifer Lichter,
Deputy Director,
Domestic Policy
Council

Henry Hunter,
Sr., Chair of
Orutsararmiut
Native Council

Ray Watson,
Chair of the Board
of AVCP

Amber Ebarb,
Lead Policy Staff
handling Rural
and Native Affairs,
Office of Senator
Murkowski

Quinton Carroll,
Office of Senator
Sullivan

Julie Kitka,
President of the
Alaska Federation
of Natives

**Charles
Addington,**
Director of BIA
Office of Justice
Services

Mirtha Beadle,
Senior Policy
Advisor for
Commissioner of
the ANA

Tricia Tingle,
Associate Director
of Tribal Justice
Support, BIA OJS

Gene Peltola, Jr.,
Alaska BIA Area
Director

Requests from 45 Representatives

- Non-Competitive, permanent and direct funding to tribes
- Compacting model through the Denali Commission
- Infrastructure development and public safety housing
- Training at all levels
- Better response times from Alaska State Troopers
- Tribal court development
- Interdiction on drug and alcohol traffic
- Partner agreements / roving programs
- Working with the community / community-based solutions
- AVCP as a demonstration site for a public safety service delivery by compacting funding through multiple sources
- Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction
- Treatment Centers
- Timely Solutions
- First responder equipment



Convention

2019 Annual Convention

Sept. 24 & 25, 2019



Our 2019 Annual Report was published using photos contributed through our first photo contest. The winner of the photo contest was determined by the number of Facebook likes before the deadline.

View the full 2019 Annual Report by clicking [HERE](#).

This year's keynote speaker was Eugene "Buzzy" Peltola Jr., Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director, Alaska.

This year, convention delegates voted on 11 proposed resolutions. Nine resolutions passed with amendments. All nine resolutions can be found within this newsletter, starting on the following page.

Delegates voted in our new Executive Board At-Large member, Thaddeus Tikiun Jr., Orutsararmiut Native Council member.

Nicholas Stoudt, with BDO, gave an update on the 2018 AVCP audit. For the first time in many years, the AVCP audit was on track to be filed on time. Audit findings had been significantly reduced. He said, "AVCP is a very large organization and the audit is no small task... This is a very big accomplishment: an on-time audit for the first time in a few years... It can't be said what a big accomplishment that is. For an organization this size, once you fall back it's really hard to catch up."

2019 AVCP Awards

James A. Charles, Elder of the Year

Martin B. Moore, Public Service

Haley O'Brien, Youth Leadership

Scott Sakar, Culture Bearer

Julia Sipary, Culture Bearer

Evan Polty Sr., Elder of the Year

Juanita Treat, Healing Hands

Ulric and Mary Ulroan, Parents of the Year



AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P.O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone (907) 543.7300

55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-01

TITLE: Resolution In Recognition of the Accomplishments of 2019 Iditarod Champion and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Native Pete Kaiser

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS AVCP wishes to recognize a Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta native who exemplifies our Region's values and our Native way of life; and

WHEREAS Dog mushing has always been part of the traditional way of life for Yup'ik, Cup'ik, Athabascan and all Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS Pete Kaiser (Yup'ik) was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska and he and his family continue to reside in his hometown; and

WHEREAS Kaiser began his racing career by winning the Akiak Dash his senior year in high school; and

WHEREAS Kaiser has won several races, including four consecutive wins of the Kuskokwim 300 in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018; and

WHEREAS Kaiser has competed in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race 10 times, with 6 top 10 finishes; and

WHEREAS Kaiser gives back to the community, including through partnering with Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Champions of Wellness Program; and

WHEREAS On March 13, 2019, Kaiser won the 2019 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race – “the Last Great Race on Earth” – with a winning time of 9 days, 12 hours, 39, minutes, and 6 seconds; and

WHEREAS Kaiser is the first Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta native and fifth Alaska Native to win the Iditarod championship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents extends this recognition to Pete Kaiser for all of his accomplishments.

2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 19-09-01

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents expresses appreciation to Pete Kaiser for being a positive role model to the youth and residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-02

TITLE: Resolution in Recognition of the Outstanding Public Service of Senator Lyman Hoffman

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS AVCP wishes to recognize a Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta native who exemplifies leadership at the local and Statewide level; and

WHEREAS Senator Lyman Hoffman (Yup'ik) was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska and he and his family continue to reside in his hometown; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman attended high school (Bethel Regional High School) and university (University of Alaska) in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman held several leadership positions in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, including Deputy Director of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and City Manager of the City of Bethel; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman is the longest serving member in the history of the Alaska State Legislature, serving a combined total of 32 years in the House and Senate; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman's legacy in the Alaska State Legislature includes establishing the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Endowment Fund, which offsets the cost of electricity in rural Alaska, where the cost of electricity can run three to five times more than urban areas; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman has held many leadership positions in the Alaska State Legislature, including co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee and co-chair of the House Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman is currently the majority leader of the Alaska State Senate and represents District S; and

WHEREAS Senator Hoffman can be relied upon to represent the best interests of the voters of District S, residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and citizens of the great State of Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents extends this recognition to Senator Lyman Hoffman for his outstanding record of public service.

2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 19-09-02

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents expresses appreciation to Lyman Hoffman for his advocacy on behalf of rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-03

TITLE: A Resolution of Support for the Alaska State Legislature Village Public Safety Officer Working Group

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS Public Safety has been the number one priority of the AVCP Region Tribes for the past three years; and

WHEREAS AVCP operates the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region through a contract with the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS In May 2018, AVCP led the State in planning a Statewide VPSO Strategic Planning meeting; and

WHEREAS At the conclusion of that meeting, the VPSO tribal contractors and the State of Alaska agreed on a strategy with five components:

- (1) Improving communication through better branding, community engagement, and strengthening and building partnerships at all levels;
- (2) Making a VPSO available in every community;
- (3) Giving Tribal contractors the flexibility needed to provide public safety in a way that works for each individual region;
- (4) Ensuring adequate funding for all Program needs;
- (5) Defining the VPSO's role and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS Instead of following the 2018 Strategic Plan, in 2019 the State of Alaska's Office of the Governor slashed the VPSO Program's budget and declined to give tribal contractors the flexibility they need; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has created a Village Public Safety Officer Working Group to provide substantive policy recommendations related to the VPSO Program for submittal to the Alaska Legislature no later than January 31, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents is in full support of the Alaska State Legislature VPSO Working Group.

2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 19-09-03

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents calls on the Alaska State Legislature to seek and consider the input of Alaska Tribes/Tribal entities that provide public safety services in their communities in its recommendations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-04

TITLE: Fully Funded Public Safety Infrastructure in the AVCP-Region

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, proclaims: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and *security of person*”; and

WHEREAS Public safety is a basic need of community members in Western Alaska, including protection from the elements, security of the person and property, freedom of fear, existence of law and order, control of harmful substances, access to emergency resources, and stability; and

WHEREAS Our Tribes and Tribal members have experienced significant hardship from the widespread unavailability or underprovision of public safety services in their communities compared to other areas of Alaska and the United States; and

WHEREAS In 2016, AVCP’s member villages identified public safety as the number one priority to be addressed in Western Alaska as a matter of community survival; and

WHEREAS In the Summer of 2018, AVCP conducted an assessment of all Public Safety Facilities in the AVCP-Region and found, of the 46 communities assessed, that:

- 4 public safety facilities needed complete replacement
- 24 public safety facilities needed renovation
- 9 communities needed public safety facilities constructed
- 26 communities needed public safety officer housing; and

WHEREAS Congress passed Public Law 83-280 in 1953 mandating that the allocation of civil and criminal jurisdiction enjoyed by the federal government over Native peoples in Alaska shall pass to the state government; and

WHEREAS Congress additionally enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1973 extinguishing our Tribes’ aboriginal title to their land and eliminating territorial jurisdiction as a basis for our Tribes to levy taxes or engage in other land-based revenue regimes; and

WHEREAS The State of Alaska is now primarily responsible for ensuring public safety services are provided to villages of Western Alaska through the Department of Public Safety (DPS); and

2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 19-09-04

WHEREAS Tribes in the AVCP Region deserve the same resources, authority, and protections afforded to Tribes in the Lower 48 to provide law enforcement in their communities; and

WHEREAS Tribal communities in the State of Alaska deserve the same standard of public safety provided to those on the road system and other communities around the State; and

WHEREAS Adequate public safety infrastructure, including holding facilities, public safety office space, and public safety officer housing, is necessary for public safety in the AVCP Region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents calls on the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska to each fulfill their obligations to Alaska Native Tribes and communities in Rural Alaska by adequately and equitably resourcing public safety infrastructure in Tribal communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

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Submitted by: The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-05

TITLE: A Resolution of Continued Support for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native Tribes know what is best for their children, Alaska Native families and communities are the best places for Alaska Native children to thrive, and Alaska Native children steeped in the love, values, and culture of their Tribes have the best chance of being healthy, engaged members of society; and

WHEREAS AVCP's Tribes have inherent authority to initiate and adjudicate actions related to children subject to the Tribe's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS The experience in Alaska is that as Tribes and Tribal organizations acquire resources to more completely fulfill this inherent authority, the number of Indian children who become subject to the Alaska Office of Children's Services' (OCS) investigations and custody actions diminishes. In addition, when Tribes and Tribal organizations collaborate with or take on responsibilities for OCS, the outcomes improve; and

WHEREAS AVCP operates a robust child welfare program through its ICWA department, on behalf of its compacted Tribes, which assists and supports families in need, and children in the custody of OCS; and

WHEREAS AVCP's ICWA department has staff located in 39 remote villages throughout our region; and

WHEREAS In the AVCP Region, the OCS has staff concentrated in the hub locations and only a handful of villages; and

WHEREAS The OCS experiences high vacancy and turnover rates, coupled with short tenures, which increases the number of cases OCS workers must carry, and decreases the continuity of supervision. The recommended national standard is 12 cases per worker. However, OCS workers carry at least 16 cases: 25% more than the national standard; [2017 CFSR at 18]. This lack of resources impedes the State's ability to effectively address the problem of disproportionality among Alaska's children in state custody that has existed since statehood; and

WHEREAS Alaska Tribes and the State of Alaska share an obligation to Alaska's Native children; and

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WHEREAS Tribes and AVCP in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta form the backbone of the Child Welfare system and the OCS has depended for years on the Tribes and AVCP staff to assist them in their work; and

WHEREAS The State has recognized this fact for many years and has tried at times to better integrate the Tribes' work through Tribal/State collaborations; and

WHEREAS Despite that work, there are still many administrative and systemic barriers to integrating the Tribes' work with the State's; and

WHEREAS AVCP is a Tribal Co-Signer to the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact of 2017; and

WHEREAS This Compact was an enormous undertaking designed to overhaul the child welfare system and pave the way for Tribes and Tribal Organizations to provide the services that are currently the responsibility of the State. The end result of this work, would be a complete integration of the State and Tribal child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact provides only the broad framework. Since the signing of the Compact in October 2017, the Tribal Co-Signers have committed thousands of staff hours along with significant travel expenses to create detailed scopes of work that allow the aims of the Compact can be carried out; and

WHEREAS AVCP supports the ongoing work of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact including the Tribal Co-Signers ability to take on more activities through the adoption and implementation of additional Scopes of Work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents affirms its continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents calls on the State of Alaska to also affirm its continued support for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, which will improve the outcomes for Alaska's children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P.O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone (907) 543.7300

55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-06

TITLE: A Call for Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Region Tribes to Encourage Full Participation in the 2020 U.S. Census

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS The United States Constitution requires a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS Census data guides how over \$675 billion dollars of federal, state, and tribal funding are distributed annually; and

WHEREAS In Alaska, this funding is critical to build and repair roads and bridges, operate healthcare and education systems, provide nutrition assistance to low-income children and families, develop and operate affordable housing, support the child welfare system, and more; and

WHEREAS For Alaska Tribal communities, this funding is essential to build and repair roads and boardwalks, operate tribal healthcare facilities and systems, support tribal child welfare systems, provide education and training assistance, ensure the operation of tribal governments, provide benefits to households in need, and more; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native/American Indian communities have historically been undercounted; and

WHEREAS This has a direct negative impact on the economy and opportunities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; and

WHEREAS Tribal households in the AVCP Region will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census by April 1, 2020 (“Census Day 2020”); and

WHEREAS Households will have the option to participate online, by mail, or by phone.

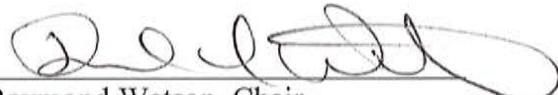
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents encourages all member Tribes to encourage their members to participate fully in the 2020 Census.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents continue to work with the U.S. Census Bureau to encourage Tribal participation.

2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 19-09-06

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents sponsors this resolution to the 2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska October 17-19, 2019.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: Alakanuk Traditional Council;
Nunakauyak Traditional Council

AVCP

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-07

TITLE: A Resolution Recommending the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Executive Board Convert the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Position into a Contract-Based Agreement for [Employee] Services

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents recognizes the importance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position within all entities and organizations; and

WHEREAS This is especially true for an organization such as AVCP that serves a regional population in a large area such as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region; and

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents also recognizes that with a position as essential as the CEO, having terms expressly written in a contract that are discussed and negotiated is very beneficial for all parties involved; and

WHEREAS This gives the Association of Village Council Presidents and the CEO a clear picture and better understanding of expected outcomes from the organization that are measurable; and

WHEREAS These elevated expectations are not always expressed in any standard “At-Will” employment agreement applied to standard policy and procedures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents strongly recommend that the Executive Board of AVCP consider converting the CEO position into a contract-based [employee] position with negotiated terms of employment.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

AVCP

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-09

TITLE: A Resolution Asking the Delegates to Pull Passed AVCP Convention Resolution No. 06-10-14: *AVCP Member Villages Support Development of the Donlin Creek Mine Project to the Extent That It Can Be Done in an Environmentally Sound Manner That Preserves the Integrity of the Kuskokwim River and its Related Subsistence Resources, and Ask for a Re-Vote*

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS There is strong recent opposition to the development of the Donlin Creek Mine by tribes and tribal membership; and

WHEREAS Tribes have received numerous emails, comments, and public testimony that clearly illustrate the position that regional residents have in opposing the development of Donlin Creek Mine; and

WHEREAS Indigenous Natives and residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim have long used the lands, which will continue to be used by future generations, in and around the proposed Donlin Creek Mine to sustain our hunting, fishing, and gathering subsistence lifestyles; and

WHEREAS If these mines are developed there is a strong likelihood that there can and will be a detrimental impact on the water and air quality, fish, and wildlife resources and spawning grounds, and health of residents and subsistence hunters living or using the land adjacent to these mining activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents pull Resolution No. 06-10-14, and ask for a re-vote based on the recent concerns regarding the safety and potentially detrimental impacts on our environment from developing the Donlin Creek Mine.

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ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: Orutsararmiut Native Council

AVCP

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55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

RESOLUTION 19-09-10

TITLE: A Resolution Opposing the Further Development and Near Future Operation of the Donlin Creek Gold Mine

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member federally recognized tribes within Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS Although the development and operation of the Donlin Gold mine could bring much needed employment opportunities to our regional residents, AVCP anticipates that our hired residents would soon relocate to Anchorage or other urban settings as the mine would provide for their transportation to and from the mine for their shifts; and

WHEREAS This anticipated migration of our locals would become detrimental to the local entities that work together for providing essential services for our well-being, as their population count contributes to the funding allocation for each village, and also their earnings would benefit the urban areas more than it would the villages that the locals moved out of; and

WHEREAS It would become even more devastating to the remaining elderly residents that rely on those able workforce family members to provide for their traditional sustenance, that has contributed to being the main source of their health and well-being as it has been passed down and fully utilized since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS All species of salmon and other species of fish that return are largely the main source of food for the majority of families on the Kuskokwim River and nearby coastal communities and the fish has been relied on by countless generations ahead of us; and

WHEREAS The close proximity of the proposed Donlin Gold mine to the Kuskokwim River leaves no doubt, that the planned method of gold retrieval that calls for the use of cyanide and other chemicals that do not dissolve or evaporate, will jeopardize every fish on the Kuskokwim, its tributaries and coastal communities, should a disaster strike the mine and its tailings pond; and

WHEREAS The mined rock from which the gold will be extracted from reportedly contains mercury, and the mining process will intensify the risk factor that the fish and all living creatures will face more and more each year the mine is in operation; studies are being conducted on how the chemicals will impact us all in the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS The support infrastructure being planned to be constructed soon are: a natural gas pipeline that stretches 315 miles from the Cook Inlet to the Kuskokwim River, a new barge terminal in Bethel, AK, a 30-mile road downriver from the mine to a 5-acre

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port on the Kuskokwim, a new 5000 ft. airstrip, a 40,000,000 gallon diesel fuel farm, a tailings pond to use while extracting from a 2 mile by 1 mile pit, and increased barge traffic hauling fuel, chemicals, supplies, and equipment to support the mine when the river is ice free; and

WHEREAS Even when all safety measures are exercised, there are disastrous accidents prone to happen due to human error when the mine support activities are carried out, and we can all imagine the devastation to the Kuskokwim fish and wildlife AND every person that relies on the Kuskokwim River for their livelihood should this catastrophe occur.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents opposes the further development and near future operation of the Donlin Creek Gold Mine, due to the extreme hazards and excessive risks it poses to the health and welfare of the people, fish and wildlife on the Kuskokwim River and Yukon and Kuskokwim River Delta Region, and other factors that will adversely affect the local families.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-fifth annual convention held in Bethel, Alaska, this 25th day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Raymond Watson, Chair



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: Native Village of Kwinhagak