

AVCP

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

57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HYBRID SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

RESOLUTION 21-09-01

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS There is a public safety crisis in rural Alaska –

- 59% of adult women in Alaska have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both;
- Reported rape in Alaska is 2.5 times the national average;
- Alaska Natives comprise just 19% of the state population, but 47% of reported rape victims;
- In rural Alaska’s tribal communities (and for Alaska Native women living in urban areas) women reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States and physical assault victimization rates up to 12 times higher;
- More than 95% of all crimes committed in rural Alaska can be attributed to alcohol; and

WHEREAS Tribes in rural Alaska have little to no public safety resources to keep their tribal communities safe; and

WHEREAS Tribes rely on a patchwork of state law enforcement and tribal law enforcement, which leaves gaps in service and instability for tribal governments and tribal public safety employees; and

WHEREAS The interpretation of certain legislation regarding Indian Country in Alaska has cast the status of Alaska tribes’ criminal jurisdiction into doubt; and

WHEREAS At the 2016 AVCP Annual Convention, the AVCP Region tribes declared public safety as the region’s number one priority; and

WHEREAS On June 28, 2019, Attorney General Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska; and

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WHEREAS On October 17, 2019, U.S. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced S. 2616, the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act (“the Act”) legislation; and

WHEREAS The Act recognizes that, regardless of land title, Indian tribes in Alaska have inherent civil and criminal jurisdiction over all Alaska Natives present in their villages; and

WHEREAS The Act recognizes that Indian tribes in Alaska have full civil jurisdiction within their villages to issue and enforce protection orders involving any individual; and

WHEREAS The Act also creates a pilot program in Alaska in which the Attorney General will select up to five tribes or inter-tribal organizations each year to exercise general civil jurisdiction over all persons within the village, plus criminal jurisdiction over all persons for certain enumerated crimes; and

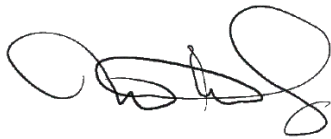
WHEREAS Alaska tribes have waited long enough for the devastating impacts of a lack of public safety in their communities to be addressed; and

WHEREAS Alaska tribes are asking for no more or no less than any other community in the State of Alaska or in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for the reintroduction and passage of the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, to this end, the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation co-sponsor this legislation.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association’s fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HYBRID SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

RESOLUTION 21-09-02

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Continued Advocacy and Support for Bering Sea Protections

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS Twenty-six of AVCP's member tribes lie along the Bering Sea Coast, the Nation's Northernmost border; and

WHEREAS Since 2008, AVCP has worked in close partnership with the Bering Sea Elder's Group, Kawerak Inc., and the 70 tribes of the Bering Sea region to prevent trawling on the ocean bottom of the Northern Bering Sea, gain protection of the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, and engage the federal government in a government-to-government relationship for tribal self-determination on issues affecting the Northern Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS As a direct result of a request from this Coalition, in 2016 President Obama created the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area through Executive Order; and

WHEREAS President Trump revoked the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, but President Biden reinstated the Executive Order's protections on his first day of office; and

WHEREAS The Executive Order provides a pathway for Bering Sea tribes to exercise self-determination and elevates Tribes' rightful role in the decision-making process through the creation of a Bering Intergovernmental Tribal Advisory Council; and

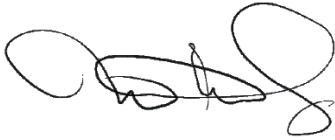
WHEREAS AVCP continues to support Bering Sea protections for its member Tribes, including by convening a meeting to recommend tribal representatives to the Bering Intergovernmental Tribal Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS AVCP remains engaged with the Bering Sea tribal coalition to support our Region's protection of Bering Sea resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors affirms AVCP's continued commitment to advocating for the protection of the Bering Sea and its resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors affirms AVCP's continued commitment to partnership through the Bering Sea tribal coalition, including supporting the Region's participation in the Bering Intergovernmental Tribal Advisory Council.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HYBRID SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

RESOLUTION 21-09-03

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Increased Funding 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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS Alaska Native children are disproportionately represented in Alaska's child welfare system, making up 15% of the state's general population, but constituting 65% of children in State custody; and

WHEREAS The State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services (OCS) has a difficult time recruiting and retaining a proficient workforce and generally operates at a 50% positional vacancy rate, requiring its frontline workers to carry caseloads more than three times the national average; and

WHEREAS AVCP supports the ongoing work of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (the Compact), the goal of which is to transform child welfare by improving the life and outcomes of Alaska Native children in OCS custody at a lower cost and higher quality; and

WHEREAS The compact enables Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide services, that are currently the responsibility of OCS, to Native children and families; and

WHEREAS Compact funding has remained flat over the last three fiscal years, even as Tribal Co-signers to the Compact are routinely asked to do more with less; and

WHEREAS Tribal Co-signers must supplement Compact work with general funds or funding from other programs; may have to reduce the amount of services they can provide under the Compact; and have difficulty recruiting and retaining staff with competitive and livable wages; and

WHEREAS The Alaska State Legislature included an increase of \$3.4 million for Compact implementation funds for FY 2022, which was vetoed by the Governor's Office.


2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 21-09-03

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors urges the Alaska State Legislature and the Executive Branch to increase funding for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, in order to effect full and successful implementation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
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RESOLUTION 21-09-04

TITLE: In Recognition of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation’s COVID-19 Response

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) a pandemic; and

WHEREAS The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) is the health authority responsible for COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, and response in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YK-Delta); and

WHEREAS Since the beginning of the pandemic and continuing today, YKHC has communicated regularly and frequently with member tribes and the general public to provide COVID-19 information and resources on preventing or reducing the spread of the coronavirus in YK-Delta communities; and

WHEREAS From early in the pandemic and continuing today, YKHC has made COVID-19 testing free and widely available; and

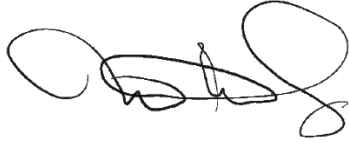
WHEREAS YKHC has planned and executed a seamless vaccination strategy, resulting in over 15,000 fully vaccinated YK-Delta residents, a number which continues to grow; and

WHEREAS YKHC staff have answered questions and provided feedback on COVID-19 mitigation policies and reopening plans to tribes, organizations, schools, and businesses, including AVCP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors of the Association of Village Council Presidents recognizes the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation for its continued service to the tribes and communities of the AVCP Region during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 21-09-04

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
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RESOLUTION 21-09-05

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Defending the Power Cost Equalization Fund

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS The State of Alaska has made significant investment in urban energy projects to provide affordable infrastructure for Urban Alaska; and

WHEREAS Fuel cost components are nearly four times greater in rural Alaska than its urban centers; and

WHEREAS Power Cost Equalization (PCE) was established in 1984 as a permanent solution for rural Alaska, which “equalizes” electric rates in rural Alaska to the average cost of power in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau; and

WHEREAS Due to annual funding battles which threatened the longevity and viability of the PCE, the PCE Endowment Fund was established in 2000; and

WHEREAS PCE reduces the high cost of electricity in rural Alaska for residential and community facility customers and served 81,700 Alaskans in 192 communities in Fiscal Year 2020; and

WHEREAS In Fiscal Year 2020, \$8,891,474 PCE payments were made on behalf of customers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; and

WHEREAS The State of Alaska has determined the Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund must automatically be swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve, resulting in PCE not being funded for Fiscal Year 2022; and

WHEREAS Without PCE, residential electricity bills in rural Alaska will double, and other utilities such as water plants and sewage treatment centers which use large amounts of energy to operate, will also be impacted.

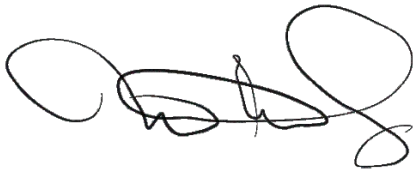
2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 21-09-05

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors of the Association of Village Council Presidents supports the continued implementation of Power Cost Equalization and the protection of the Power Cost Equalization Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents will work with tribes, organizations, the Legislature, and other entities to protect the right to affordable energy in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
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RESOLUTION 21-09-06

TITLE: A Resolution to Respond to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS There is a public safety crisis in rural Alaska where there are disproportionately high rates of crimes against Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS Alaska is the deadliest state for women with approximately 59% of women experiencing intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both; and

WHEREAS Alaska has the fourth highest rate of missing and murdered women in the United States; and

WHEREAS Teenagers who are removed from their Native villages to cities on the road system often run away and are at risk for trafficking and being taken advantage of; and

WHEREAS Tribes need recognition of their criminal jurisdiction within village boundaries and permanent direct non-competitive base funding for public safety to build the necessary law enforcement infrastructure to respond to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in YK-Delta communities; and

WHEREAS Healthy and resilient communities are the best way to prevent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in our tribal communities, and from time immemorial our elders have taught us practices to support healthy communities; and

WHEREAS Collaboration between tribal, federal, state, and local agencies and community-based organizations are necessary to respond to and prevent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for action to respond to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 21-09-06

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to continue to advocate for law enforcement resources in rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to continue and expand prevention services to support healthy communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to explore ways to collaborate with tribes, governmental, and non-governmental agencies to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in rural Alaska.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held virtually, this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
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RESOLUTION 21-09-07

TITLE: A Resolution Calling for a Field Hearing on the State of Salmon

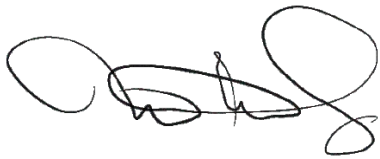
- WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and
- WHEREAS AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health, and well-being; and
- WHEREAS Healthy and abundant salmon stocks are essential for the nutritional, cultural and economic well-being of the people who live along the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages and Bering Sea Coast; and
- WHEREAS The salmon resources that return every year provide for a unique subsistence way of life and are essential for food security and for providing a modest commercial fishing economic base that supports families throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS The AVCP Region has experienced fisheries disasters and community economic hardship many times over the last thirty years, including the recent summer of 2020, which was characterized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as one of the worst salmon seasons in decades and the current summer of 2021 without a single opening on the Yukon River and poor runs on the Kuskokwim River; and
- WHEREAS AVCP has worked on regional and statewide efforts going back to 1991, requesting the State of Alaska and the federal government to declare federal fisheries disasters, thereby providing allocated relief funds for our fishermen and their families; and
- WHEREAS AVCP has also advocated for more resources and research in the Arctic-Yukon Kuskokwim (AYK) Region to help in identifying causes for the declines in salmon returning and has participated in efforts like the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative, providing funding to address salmon research and restoration needs; and
- WHEREAS AVCP collaborates with sister tribal consortia and other tribal organizations, such as the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission, Bering Sea Elders Group, and Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, to advocate for increased protections and preservation of precious subsistence resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors continues to recognize and support the cultural, nutritional and economic importance of salmon to the people of the AVCP Region in perpetuity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Administration work to arrange a field hearing with the Congressional delegation to discuss the State of Salmon in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

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57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HYBRID SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

RESOLUTION 21-09-08

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Legislation for State of Alaska Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes

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 indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

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

WHEREAS Alaska Native peoples and Alaska Native tribes have existed in what is now known as the State of Alaska from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS Tribes possess inherent powers and authorities, including self-governance of internal affairs; and

WHEREAS Tribes act in the best interest of their tribal members in all areas, including the protection and safety of children, families, and vulnerable members of society; the stewardship of our natural resources; the support and promotion of education and workforce development; and the health and wellness of all tribal members; and

WHEREAS There are 229 federally recognized tribes in the State of Alaska, including the 56 AVCP member tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; and

WHEREAS In years past, the State of Alaska argued that tribes did not exist, and had never existed, in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the federal government, through the Department of the Interior “Sansoneetti Opinion” (1993) and Congress’ passing of the Federally Recognized Tribe List Act of 1994, confirmed the existence of Alaska tribes; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Supreme Court (*John v. Baker*, 1999) and the State of Alaska Executive Branch (Alaska Admin. Order No. 300, 2018) has since also recognized the existence of Alaska tribes; and

WHEREAS through HB 123 the Alaska State Legislature, as the third branch of the State government, will also recognize the existence of Alaska tribes; and

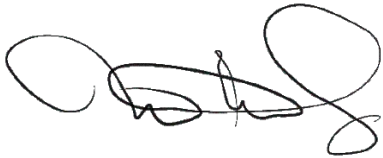
2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTION 21-09-08

WHEREAS HB 123 passed the Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives on May 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS Companion bill SB 108 was introduced but has not passed the Alaska State Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors fully supports and calls for the reintroduction and passage of An Act providing for State recognition of federally recognized tribes.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chairman



Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by: The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board