

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

FULL BOARD RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED 2020



*Breaking Trails
into the Future;*
in the spirit of Ch'eghwtsen'

Dena' Nena' Henash

Proposed 2020 Full Board Resolutions Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors



To: TCC Member Entities

From: Resolutions Committee

Date: 2/21/2020

Thank you to all the submissions of proposed 2020 resolutions. The resolutions committee met on February 12, 2020. The point of the resolutions committee is to vet resolutions, suggest amendments and obtain tribal support before resolution day to ensure we have quality, agreeable and timely resolutions. The resolutions committee worked with the resolution sponsors for approved edits on most resolutions. Thank you to the sponsors for your prompt responses. The resolutions committee has very few comments as most the sponsors responded in time for the suggested changes.

The resolutions committee suggests that each council review the resolutions. If you come-up with proposed amendments please contact Natasha.Singh@tananachiefs.org or Keith.Rueben@tananachiefs.org. We will then contact the resolution sponsor to seek approval of the amendment. We hope to complete as many amendments as possible before resolution day so that there is time for the debate and discussion on the subject matters that need more time. The day will also include the IRHA and Presidential elections, which will be on paper ballots and could take time.

At the end of the resolution packet there are some subregional/village specific resolutions. Per the resolution rules, full board resolutions should not be village specific, however the subregion is able to pass a village specific resolution and the TCC staff is required to follow-up and report on the subregional resolution.

Resolution #: 2020-01

**Title: REQUESTING SUPPORT OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
TRIBES' PARTICIPATION IN THE BERING SEA-WESTERN
INTERIOR TRIBAL COMMISSION**

Comments:

The resolutions committee suggests the YK and GASH subregions work closely with staff to provide further clarification on exactly what is expected. This will set clear expectations to the executive board and staff how to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the resolution. The range of possibilities is significant as it calls for the creation of a new entity. The resolution committee thanks the YK subregion for this important resolution. Protection of our traditional lands was a pillar of advocacy for our traditional chiefs and through your actions, land protection continues to be a priority today.

Recommendation: Do Pass

REQUESTING SUPPORT OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE TRIBES' PARTICIPATION IN THE BERING SEA-WESTERN INTERIOR TRIBAL COMMISSION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Native tribal communities live in their ancestral lands and depend on wild food resources on public lands to sustain those communities; and
- WHEREAS,** The BLM prepares resource management plans to guide management of large tracts of public lands including over 26.5 million acres that affect the way-of-life of many Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS,** Numerous Alaska Native tribes and communities are prominent stakeholders for the Bering Sea Western Interior and Central Yukon Resource Management Planning decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** The resources management planning process has not adequately incorporated views and input by impacted communities in the proposed preferred alternatives; and
- WHEREAS,** Federally recognized Tribes impacted by the BLM resource management planning process formed a coalition to focus their participation in the BLM planning process, named the Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Commission is committed to inform the plan's decision-makers about Tribal concerns through completion of the planning process; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Commission intends to be a long-term entity that will strengthen Tribal voices throughout the 20-30 year duration of the plans, remaining involved in land use issues affecting Tribes in the Bering Sea-Western Interior and Central Yukon planning areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that subject to the availability of funds, the Tanana Chiefs Conference recognizes and supports the Bering Sea-Western Interior Tribal Commission as a key a tribal organization for consultation in the resource management planning process, and that TCC support member tribes of the commission to seek funding and other administrative support to strengthen Tribal involvement in the BLM planning and decision-making process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board of Directors requests leaders and staff to provide support for meetings of the Bering Sea-Western Interior Tribal Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board of Directors hereby directs staff to work with the tribal leadership to seek funds to implement Tribal Commission meetings and goals.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Yukon Koyukuk Subregion

Resolution #: 2020-02

**Title: SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC
SAFETY CRISIS IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH
RECOGNITION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURISDICTION**

Comments:

For a decade, the TCC Executive Board and staff have focused on improvement of public safety. One way to improve public safety is through expanded tribal jurisdiction that could open-up agency funding for law enforcement and create a mechanism for tribes to address problems in their home villages without waiting for crimes to escalate for state involvement. The attached bill is included as reference for the resolution.

Recommendation: Do Pass

SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH RECOGNITION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURISDICTION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska domestic violence rates are ten times the national average, sexual assaults against Alaska Native women are 12 times the national average, and many offenders are non-Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250 percent among domestic violence victims, considering that Alaska Natives comprise just 19 percent of the state population yet are 47 percent of reported rape victims; and
- WHEREAS,** Every 18 hours an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted; and
- WHEREAS,** One out of every 4 Alaska Native youth suffers post-traumatic stress (PTSD) due to childhood exposure to violence—the same rate as Afghanistan War veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** The suicide rate in Alaska is 6 times the national rate, alcohol-related mortality rate is 3.5 times the national rate, and 95% of rural crimes are alcohol related; and
- WHEREAS,** State-based law enforcement is virtually nonexistent in most Alaska Native villages, because state troopers are only present in hub cities and state-funded Village Public Safety Officers are only present in 42 out of 229 Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal jurisdiction in Alaska, while concurrent with the State of Alaska, was effectively eliminated by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and most crimes do not occur on the few remaining lands that constitute “Indian country” under federal law (i.e., allotments, townsite lots, and trust lands); and
- WHEREAS,** Effective tribal jurisdiction in Alaska has been further eroded by gravely insufficient resources directed towards tribes in Public Law 280 States for tribal law enforcement and tribal courts; and

- WHEREAS,** The Supreme Court in *Alaska v. Native Village of Venetie* held that lands conveyed to Native corporations under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act do not qualify as “Indian country” under federal law; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Law and Order Commission found that “Alaska Department of Public Safety (ADPS) officers have primary responsibility for law enforcement in rural Alaska, but ADPS provides for only 1.0-1.4 field officers per million acres.” Without a strong law enforcement presence, crime in Alaska Native villages occurs with impunity; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission report states: “The strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems of the State of Alaska . . . do not serve local and Native communities adequately, if at all. The Commission believes that devolving authority to Alaska Native communities is essential for addressing local crime. Their governments are best positioned to effectively arrest, prosecute, and punish, and they should have the authority to do so—or to work out voluntary agreements with each other, and with local governments and the State on mutually beneficial terms,” and;
- WHEREAS,** To be effective and to avoid tragic loopholes, tribal criminal and civil jurisdiction in Alaska must apply to all persons, Native and non-Native alike; and
- WHEREAS,** Most federal jurisdictional, data gathering and other public safety laws reference application of the laws to a tribe’s “Indian country,” which often effectively leaves out Alaska Native Tribes and their communities, and;
- WHEREAS,** Alaska tribes wish to work in collaboration with state and federal authorities to best exercise effective concurrent tribal, federal and state jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress in 2011 considered a bill that would have recognized tribal jurisdiction in Alaska Native villages over drug and alcohol and related matters, and over any tribal member or person having consensual relations with a tribal member in the village; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2019 the House sent to the Senate amendments to the Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 1585) which, as amended at the request of Congressman Don Young (AK-R), would authorize a pilot project for Alaska Native tribes to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over certain domestic and sexual violence-related offenses against all persons present within a participating Alaska Native village; and
- WHEREAS,** The population of over 100 Alaska Native villages is 70% or more

Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the Nation's commitment to maximizing tribal self-determination and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the Nation's commitment to addressing dangerous public safety concerns in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires states to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors calls upon Congress promptly to enact legislation recognizing the public safety crisis in Alaska Native communities and recognizing concurrent criminal and civil jurisdiction of federally recognized Tribes in Alaska over all lands and persons within Alaska Native villages in connection with matters concerning domestic and dating violence, sex trafficking, sexual violence, stalking, obstruction of justice, and assault upon law enforcement and corrections officers and drug-, alcohol- and child-abuse-related offenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors supports and advocates for the passage of the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act, S. 2616 – sponsored by Senator Murkowski to recognize the authority of Tribal governments in Alaska to battle violent crimes against women and children in their communities and represents a significant recognition of Tribal jurisdiction in Alaska to protect Alaska Natives and reduce the disproportionate violence they experience.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide civil and criminal jurisdiction over Alaska Natives and non-Alaska
Natives for certain Indian tribes in the State of Alaska.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide civil and criminal jurisdiction over Alaska Natives
and non-Alaska Natives for certain Indian tribes in the
State of Alaska.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Tribal Public
5 Safety Empowerment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) according to the report of the Indian Law
9 and Order Commission established by section 15 of

1 the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C.
2 2812), Alaska Native women—

3 (A) are overrepresented in the domestic vi-
4 olence victim population by 250 percent;

5 (B) in the State of Alaska, comprise—

6 (i) 19 percent of the population of the
7 State; but

8 (ii) 47 percent of reported rape vic-
9 tims in the State; and

10 (C) as compared to the populations of
11 other Indian tribes, suffer the highest rates of
12 domestic and sexual violence;

13 (2) most Alaska Native villages are located in
14 remote areas that—

15 (A) are often inaccessible by road; and

16 (B) have no local law enforcement pres-
17 ence;

18 (3) the Commission referred to in paragraph
19 (1)—

20 (A) determined that the Alaska Depart-
21 ment of Public Safety—

22 (i) has primary responsibility for law
23 enforcement in rural Alaska; but

24 (ii) provides only 1 to 1.4 field officers
25 per 1,000,000 acres; and

1 (B) recommended that “devolving author-
2 ity to Alaska Native communities is essential
3 for addressing local crime. Their governments
4 are best positioned to effectively arrest, pros-
5 ecute, and punish, and they should have the au-
6 thority to do so-or to work out voluntary agree-
7 ments with each other, and with local govern-
8 ments and the State on mutually beneficial
9 terms”; and

10 (4) the unique legal relationship of the United
11 States to Indian tribes creates a Federal trust re-
12 sponsibility to assist Tribal governments in safe-
13 guarding the lives of Indian women.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) ALASKA NATIVE.—The term “Alaska Na-
17 tive” means an individual who—

18 (A) is a member of an Indian tribe;

19 (B) is eligible for membership in an Indian
20 tribe; or

21 (C) is regarded as an Alaska Native by the
22 community in which the individual resides.

23 (2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
24 has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the

1 Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994
2 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

3 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
4 of Alaska.

5 (4) VILLAGE.—The term “village” means the
6 Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or
7 any portion of a Native village (as defined in section
8 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43
9 U.S.C. 1602)).

10 **SEC. 4. TRIBAL JURISDICTION IN ALASKA.**

11 (a) ALASKA NATIVES.—Subject to title II of the Civil
12 Rights Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) (commonly
13 known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”), and re-
14 gardless of the holder of title in and to any applicable land,
15 Congress recognizes and affirms that any Indian tribe in
16 the State occupying a village may exercise, as part of the
17 inherent authority of the Indian tribe—

18 (1) criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Alas-
19 ka Natives present in the village; and

20 (2) full civil jurisdiction within the village—

21 (A) to issue and enforce protection orders
22 involving any individual, including the authority
23 to enforce such an order through a civil con-
24 tempt proceeding;

1 (B) to exclude violators from the village;
2 and

3 (C) to use other appropriate mechanisms
4 to address matters arising anywhere in the vil-
5 lage that are the subject of protection orders.

6 (b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR JURISDICTION OVER INDI-
7 VIDUALS WHO ARE NOT ALASKA NATIVES.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to title II of the
9 Civil Rights Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.)
10 (commonly known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of
11 1968”), and regardless of the holder of title in and
12 to any applicable land, there is established a pilot
13 program under which the Attorney General shall se-
14 lect for each calendar year not more than 5 Indian
15 tribes selected under paragraph (2) to exercise the
16 civil and criminal jurisdiction described in paragraph
17 (5) over all individuals present in the village occu-
18 pied by the Indian tribe who are not subject to the
19 jurisdiction of the Indian tribe under subsection
20 (a)(1).

21 (2) SELECTION OF QUALIFYING INDIAN
22 TRIBES.—The Attorney General, in consultation
23 with the Secretary of the Interior, shall select Indian
24 tribes to participate in the pilot program established
25 by paragraph (1), subject to—

1 (A) the condition that preference shall be
2 given to Indian tribes occupying villages—

3 (i) the populations of which are pre-
4 dominantly Alaska Native; or

5 (ii) that lack a permanent State law
6 enforcement presence; and

7 (B) such other criteria as the Attorney
8 General considers to be appropriate to achieve
9 the purposes of this Act.

10 (3) QUALIFYING INTERTRIBAL CONSORTIA.—

11 Any 2 or more qualifying Indian tribes, or a tribal
12 organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
13 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
14 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) that is acting on behalf of 2 or
15 more qualifying Indian tribes—

16 (A) may elect to participate jointly in the
17 pilot program under this subsection by pro-
18 viding shared resources to carry out the pur-
19 poses of the pilot program; and

20 (B) on making an election pursuant to
21 subparagraph (A), shall be considered to be a
22 single Indian tribe for purposes of the max-
23 imum number of participants in the pilot pro-
24 gram under paragraphs (1) and (4).

25 (4) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
2 subparagraph (B), the Attorney General may
3 select not more than 30 Indian tribes to partici-
4 pate in the pilot program under this subsection.

5 (B) EXCEPTION.—The limitation under
6 subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the Attor-
7 ney General submits to the Committee on In-
8 dian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
9 on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives a notice of the intention to select
11 any additional Indian tribe by not later than
12 the date that is 180 days before the date of se-
13 lection.

14 (5) DESCRIPTION OF JURISDICTION.—Congress
15 recognizes and affirms that an Indian tribe selected
16 to participate in the pilot program under this sub-
17 section may exercise the inherent authority of the
18 Indian tribe over all individuals described in para-
19 graph (1) through—

20 (A) general civil jurisdiction; and

21 (B) subject to paragraph (6), criminal ju-
22 risdiction with respect to (as defined in applica-
23 ble Tribal law)—

24 (i) the crimes of—

25 (I) domestic violence;

- 1 (II) dating violence;
2 (III) violation of a protective
3 order;
4 (IV) sexual violence;
5 (V) stalking;
6 (VI) sex trafficking;
7 (VII) obstruction of justice; and
8 (VIII) assault of a law enforce-
9 ment or correctional officer;
10 (ii) any crime against a child; and
11 (iii) any crime involving the posses-
12 sion, transportation, or sale of alcohol or
13 drugs where that possession, transpor-
14 tation, or sale is prohibited by an applica-
15 ble Federal, State, or Tribal law.

16 (6) RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS.—In exercising
17 the jurisdiction described in paragraph (5)(B), an
18 Indian tribe participating in the pilot program under
19 this subsection shall provide to each defendant all
20 rights described in section 204(d) of the Civil Rights
21 Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1304(d)) (commonly known
22 as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”).

23 (c) MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT.—An Indian tribe
24 participating in the pilot program under subsection (b),
25 the State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of the

1 Interior may enter into such memoranda of agreement as
2 are necessary and appropriate—

3 (1) to coordinate respective law enforcement ac-
4 tivities;

5 (2) to share equipment and other resources;

6 (3) to establish cross-deputization arrange-
7 ments;

8 (4) to coordinate appropriate training activities;
9 and

10 (5) to address any other matters that will facili-
11 tate the successful implementation of the pilot pro-
12 gram.

13 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
15 eral, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,
16 shall submit to Congress a report describing the results
17 of the pilot program under subsection (b), including legis-
18 lative recommendations to facilitate improved law enforce-
19 ment in villages.

20 **SEC. 5. SPECIAL FULL FAITH AND CREDIT FOR PROTEC-**
21 **TION ORDERS.**

22 Section 2265(e) of title 18, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking “For purposes” and inserting
25 the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes”; and

2 (2) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(2) APPLICABILITY TO ALASKA.—Paragraph

4 (1) applies to all Indian tribes in the State of Alas-
5 ka, regardless of—

6 “(A) the definition of the term ‘Indian
7 country’ contained in section 1151; or

8 “(B) the population of the Native village
9 (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native
10 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)) occu-
11 pied by such an Indian tribe.”.

12 **SEC. 6. EFFECT.**

13 Nothing in this Act—

14 (1) diminishes the jurisdiction of the State or
15 the Federal Government, as in effect on the date of
16 enactment of this Act, over any criminal or civil
17 matter;

18 (2) creates or eliminates any area of Indian
19 country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18,
20 United States Code) in the State; or

21 (3) diminishes any authority of an Indian tribe
22 in the State under any other law, including—

23 (A) the Violence Against Women Act of
24 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291 et seq.); and

1 (B) the Violence Against Women Reau-
2 thorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4; 34
3 U.S.C. 10101 note) and the amendments made
4 by that Act.

Resolution #: 2020-03

Title: SUPPORT TO REFORM THE VPSO PROGRAM

Comments:

TCC Executive Board and staff have gained traction on VPSO reform through the creation of the VPSO contractor's caucus, and meetings with legislative and administrative leadership, and unity through the Alaska Regional Coalition. On May 9, 2019, Senate President Cathy Giessel and House Speaker Bryce Edgmon announced the creation of a Joint House/Senate Working Group: Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair; Representative Chuck Kopp, Co-Chair; Senator Click Bishop; Senator Mike Shower; Representative Bryce Edgmon; and Representative George Rauscher. The working group was assigned to coordinate with the VPSO contractors to improve the program. Attached is the report for suggestions to obtain VPSO reform.

Recommendation: Do Pass

SUPPORT TO REFORM THE VPSO PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** While the VPSO program has provided valuable service to participating areas, the past decade has seen shrinking numbers of VPSOs, significant difficulty in recruitment and retention of officers, and community needs that surpass the current duties of VPSOs. There is undoubtedly a need to address the crisis in public safety infrastructure and service in rural Alaska; The VPSO contractors are in the best position to know and understand the training and experience needs required to offer effective law enforcement for their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Training for VPSO should be improved through federal partnerships for access to federal law enforcement training programs; offering training closer to home for other regions could improve VPSO recruitment and retention; Consider creating upward mobility for VPSO positions: either through compacting or state statutory changes or both, consider providing for different levels of VPSO personnel; and
- WHEREAS,** Greater recurring federal funds for public safety could be improved if the State of Alaska supports federal law which provides the tribal authority to address criminal action such as the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act, S. 2616; and
- WHEREAS,** Passage of a state version of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, could formally compact with Tribes and offer the maximum amount of program design/redesign and financial flexibility for the various VPSO contractors; and
- WHEREAS,** The current VPSO statute contains no clear law enforcement function or duties for VPSO personnel; and
- WHEREAS,** Historic and current Department of Public Safety statutory and program interpretation has denied to the contractors organizations an effective voice in the planning and implementation of this important program for the benefit of the residents within their respective regions; and
- WHEREAS,** Current regulations require the contractors to provide certain infrastructure or absorb additional liability and costs but forbid grant

funds from covering the expenses; examples include Contractors must provide housing and program related facilities (office space, holding cells) and contractors must indemnify the state for liability arising from the program's operations and thereby incur the associated insurance cost.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board supports an update to the VPSO statutes to provide a clear law enforcement and public safety vision and mission for the program and provide VPSO personnel clear law enforcement duties and powers; the creation of more financial flexibility for the VPSO contractors organizations into the updated VPSO statutes; Restore VPSO funding levels to FY18 levels as a start to meeting the actual need; an updated VPSO statute, mandate that grant awards pay contractors organization their full indirect costs; and Move financial grant management to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; In statute create a Tribal/Contractors organization consultation process before the Department drafts any changes including training and experience requirements; and Revised versions (consistent with the recommendations of this report) of current VPSO regulations need to be placed in statute in order to operationalize the VPSO program and to facilitate the contract/grant management moving to the Department of Commerce.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Executive Board



VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

Adopted January 24, 2020

ALASKA LEGISLATURE Joint House & Senate VPSO Working Group

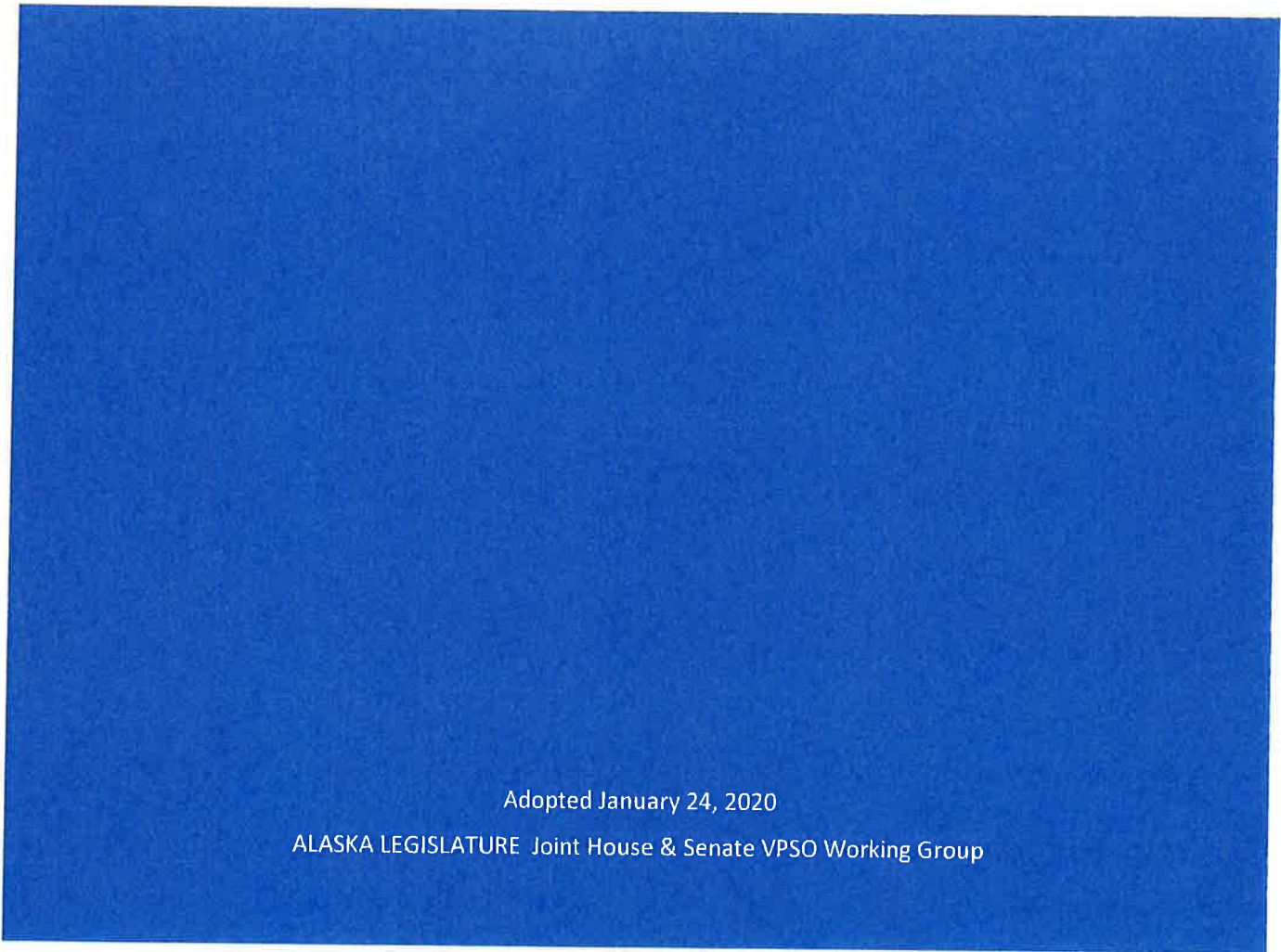


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Introduction

Created in the late 1970's, the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program's stated purpose is to assist in the protection of "life and property" and coordinate probation and parole in rural communities.

Currently, ten entities operate VPSO grants (hereinafter "grantee"). Eight of the ten grantees are regionally based nonprofit corporations whose missions are to cultivate self-determination among local tribal citizens. However, the grantee nonprofit corporations themselves are comprised of federally recognized tribes and their formation dates to a time when all three branches of state government refused to acknowledge that tribes existed in this state. The tribes formed nonprofits as a way to interact with state agencies to operate state grant programs, like the VPSO program.

Of the ten grantees, seven compact with the federal government under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638 as amended) as federally recognized tribes to deliver healthcare and other governmental programs to their tribal citizens including cultural services, early childhood education, language preservation, and economic and resource development assistance.

The Northwest Arctic Borough, a home rule regional government seated in Kotzebue, is the only grantee organization that is a municipal government.

The grantees are listed below:

- Chugachmiut is a consortium of seven tribes in the Chugach region of Southcentral Alaska surrounding the Prince William Sound. The corporation serves a population of roughly 2,200 Sugpiaq (Alutiiq) and Eyak peoples in communities including Chenega, Seward, and Valdez.
- Copper River Native Association is headquartered in Glenallen and delivers services to the Ahtna Athabaskan peoples of the Copper River Basin, 150 miles east of Anchorage.
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association serves Unangax tribal citizens in 13 communities in Southwestern Alaska, the Aleutian Chain, and the Pribilof Islands.
- Kodiak Area Native Association serves Alaska Natives, primarily Sugpiaq tribal citizens, on the Kodiak Archipelago.
- Kawerak is the nonprofit arm of the Bering Straits Native Association which was formed in 1967 as an association of the Native Villages in the Bering Straits region. It serves tribal citizens who are primarily Inupiat, Yup'ik and St. Lawrence Island Yupik.
- Northwest Arctic Borough is a regional government in Northwestern Alaska whose population is approximately 7,800 and includes the communities of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik & Shungnak.

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

- Alaska Village Council Presidents is a consortium that includes 56 tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The population served is primarily Yup'ik, Cup'ig, and Cup'ik.
- Bristol Bay Native Association is a consortium of 31 tribal councils in the Bristol Bay region that serves tribal citizens located in Bristol Bay region.
- Tanana Chiefs Association is located in interior Alaska and represents 42 primarily Athabaskan tribes in the Yukon-Koyukuk area and Greater Fairbanks.
- Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is the first federally recognized tribe in the state and serves Tlingit and Haida tribal citizens in Southeast Alaska.

While the VPSO program has provided valuable service to participating areas, the past decade has seen shrinking numbers of VPSOs, significant difficulty in recruitment and retention of officers, and community needs that surpass the current duties of VPSOs. There is undoubtedly a need to address the crisis in public safety infrastructure and service in rural Alaska.

On May 9th, 2019, Senate President Cathy Giessel and House Speaker Bryce Edgmon announced the creation of a Joint House/Senate Working Group to provide substantive policy recommendations related to the VPSO program.

Appointed to the working group were: Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair; Representative Chuck Kopp, Co-Chair; Senator Click Bishop; Senator Mike Shower; Representative Bryce Edgmon; and Representative George Rauscher.

The working group was assigned to coordinate with stakeholders to examine the underlying causes of the recruitment and retention obstacle and provide proposals to turn around the epidemic rate of personnel turnover within the VPSO program.

The working group has since held meetings, attended community meetings, participated in listening sessions, and worked with stakeholders to arrive at the proposals outlined in this report. The proposals will primarily address the core problem of increasing the number of VPSO's available to communities. This report will further address other fundamental issues such as: inequity in pay, lack of housing, officer safety, low morale, the inability to generate more interest from applicants in rural Alaska, and the role of Alaska Native Tribes in reaching solutions.

Working Group Activities

The VPSO working group and its co-chairs spent the interim engaging VPSO program stakeholders. Engagement activities primarily included formal listening sessions, but also meetings and conversations at the Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting and the Tribal Unity Caucus' annual meeting. The following is a list of those events (summaries of the events convened by the working group are included in Appendix 3):

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

- **August 14, 2019:** Full working group holds listening session with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (hereinafter “commissioner”) and her staff that manage the VPSO grants.
- **August 19, 2019:** Co-chairs attend the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs rural public safety listening session in Nome.
- **September 4, 2019:** Co-chairs attend AFN’s Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives committee pre-convention planning meeting.
- **September 27, 2019:** Full working group holds listening sessions with the VPSO grantee organizations’ VPSO coordinators (hereinafter “grantee” or “grantee organization,”).
- **October 17, 2019:** Co-chairs participate at the AFN annual convention panel focusing on rural public safety.
- **November 15, 2019:** Full working group attends the Northwest Arctic Borough’s Public Safety Commission meeting, along with Assistant U.S. Attorney Bryan Wilson.
- **December 2, 2019:** Full working group attends the Tribal Unity Caucus’ annual meeting, including a listening session for the working group comprised of the statewide Tribal leaders, many whose organizations administer VPSO grants.
- **January 8, 2020:** Co-chairs meet with the grantee organizations leadership and VPSO management personnel at the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association headquarters in Anchorage.
- **January 9, 2020:** Full working group meeting at the Anchorage LIO to review the draft report.
- **January 24, 2020.** Full working group meeting in Juneau to adopt the report.

Summary

Working group members represent a wide swath of Alaska and have districts that touch rural and urban communities. Among the members, there was immediate agreement that the public safety needs of Alaskans are paramount, and that all discussions related to the VPSO program should begin with the recognition that keeping our communities safe is the highest priority. There was similarly unanimous agreement that the program is in need of change to better serve Alaskans. Individual working group members, specifically Co-Chair Olson, who lives in a rural village well served by the VPSO program, do not view the program as failed or broken. When the working group met with the VPSO grantees’ coordinators, the people that manage the program for each grantee, the consensus view among them was that the program is not broken, though it is distressed.

Upon the conclusion of the legislative session, the working group met with the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (hereinafter “department”) and her staff to discuss the VPSO program’s current state. In conversations with the commissioner and her team, they made it clear that statutory barriers prevent changing the course of the VPSO program. This guidance gave the working group a clear direction for investigation and the certainty that changes by the

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

legislature were required. As is reflected in this report, statute changes represent the most efficient way to seek rapid improvements to the program.

The working group found the commissioner and her staff earnest and sincere in their management of the program. In taking the commissioner's advice to examine the VPSO statutes, it became clear that she, her predecessors, and the department have indeed been constrained by a weak and ambiguous statutory vision, mission, and duties for the VPSO program and personnel. When one examines the statutes, especially compared to the statutory duties of State Troopers, it becomes obvious that the statutes have led to the current shortcomings the program experiences. Essentially, the current VPSO statute provides virtually no mission, vision, or statutory law enforcement duties for the program or the VPSO personnel.

The statutory deficiency has led to differing expectations for the program. This confusion results in difficulty in grant administration, strain in community policing expectations, and contradictory appropriation expectations.

In the working group's individual meeting with the commissioner and her staff and then the grantees' coordinators, requests for funding were discussed by both parties. At the department level, many of the programs' requests are viewed as inappropriate. The grantees' perspective is that there is a lack of transparency in all matters relating to funding as well as a mother-may-I approach to funding requests and that the department nickel and dimes the programs via the approval process.

Neither is entirely right and neither is entirely wrong. Both represent a view of the problem from each's perspective. With little clarity available from the statutes, those differences are likely to persist. The department is an executive branch agency bound by its statutes and constitutional restrictions to not exceed the bounds of its statutory authority. The grantees, even though not defined as law enforcement agencies, are the de facto law enforcement first responders to all public safety crises in their regions. They are, out of necessity, fulfilling law enforcement functions, even though the statutes do not give them formal law enforcement status.

The grantees live this dilemma daily, crisis by crisis in their home communities and this is what drives their perspective. The department personnel may understand this dichotomy, but historically have not pushed the program's law enforcement function beyond the letter of the existing VPSO statutes.

In the course of multiple listening sessions the working group heard from citizens on the urgent need to improve the program and find solutions to the recruitment and retention challenges. At each listening session the working group heard account after account of the hardships created by the lack of VPSO personnel and thus any public safety presence in a number of the communities served by the program.

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

The working group's recommendations focus on both short-term goals—that can be accomplished within a year or perhaps a legislative session—and long-term goals.

Outside of clarifying the law enforcement duties expected of the program's officers, other short-term improvement proposals have surfaced through the working group's listening sessions. Relating to the issue of fund disbursement and approvals, the working group believes that updates to the VPSO statute can include specific authority that streamlines funding disbursement. Likewise, broadened and specific statutory law enforcement duties and functions should provide the flexibility to reduce the perceived overly restrictive funding approval process.

Separating the operational oversight from the funding management is another solution that seems achievable in the short term. A perception among the VPSO grantees is that an inherent conflict between the VPSO programs and the Division of Alaska State Troopers exists as it relates to the VPSO appropriation. These perceptions, along with the historic conflicting views of the program and the program's funding needs, make it seem unlikely that these competing views can be reconciled in the short term. Thus, the working group believes it best for the VPSO program if the financial oversight for the grants be moved to a different department.

The long-term goals will require the legislature and Alaskans generally to confront long standing and often ignored issues that impact public safety in the state's rural areas. First among these is how the state chooses to acknowledge and work with tribal governments.

The working group believes a lack of any formal working relationship with tribal governments in regard to public safety has greatly contributed to the lack of infrastructure and service in rural communities. However, working with tribal governments also includes working with and coordinating with the federal government. The federal government has reserved for itself the authority to set policy for how it, and consequently states, deal and interact with this country's indigenous peoples' and their governments.

There is an opportunity for the legislature to change the way in which it acknowledges tribal governance, following in the example of the Alaska Supreme Court and, as of 2017, the executive branch. This report categorizes the formalization of a working relationship with tribal governments as a long-term goal due to the significance of the policy change that it represents. However, the working group similarly has full confidence that it is within the legislature's power to make this important change.

The working group has taken great interest in the U.S. Attorney General's and the U.S. Department of Justice's interest and commitment to better meeting rural public safety needs. The Attorney General declared a public safety emergency in rural Alaska in June 2019, roughly six weeks after this working group was established. With the Attorney General's declaration, he freed up roughly \$10 million to help address the crisis. Thus far, this funding appears to be one-time or special funding. Finding a way to secure recurring federal funds for these programs is

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something that the legislature, tribes, and our Congressional delegation can commit to working on together for the long-term health of our rural communities.

A working group of this nature and with limited time necessarily has limitations. The working group's starting assignment was to find solutions to improve the program. This report does not seek to answer broader questions such as how to manage or provide for the state's police power. Nor does it attempt to establish how or what role municipalities should play and how they relate to the VPSO program.

Further, this report reflects priorities the working group heard while discharging its duties and reflect the experience many of the grantees have under P.L. 93-638 and the flexibility they have in managing both the federal programs and the funds to operate those programs. The success the tribes have had under the federal law is one reason the working group cites exploring long-term ways the state may model compacting after the federal model. By almost any measure, the federal policy of Self-Determination has been successful as the tribes have been able to institute creative solutions to local challenges. The working group would like to mirror this success with similar state policies. The working group also recognizes, however, that this level of flexibility requires a long-term view.

Long Term Goals:

- Continue working with federal partners on:
 - Training: with formal state tribal recognition, tribes may be able access federal law enforcement training programs; these federal programs could augment the Trooper academy where current VPSO training is offered. The federal training could be offered in other regions of the state besides Sitka. The monolithic/Sitka-only training makes recruitment difficult; offering training closer to home for other regions could improve VPSO recruitment and retention;
 - Greater recurring federal funds for public safety: Alaska is a Federal P.L. 280 state where states have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with Tribes, unlike non-P.L.280 states. The BIA historically does not request tribal court or law enforcement appropriations for P.L 280 states, making the law an unfunded mandate for P.L. 280 tribes and states. Senator Murkowski has secured special funding for tribal court development in P.L. 280 states. These efforts need to continue and the state should take every step necessary to encourage the Alaska Congressional delegation to secure such recurring funding.
- Explore passing a state version of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638 as amended): if passed, the state could formally compact with Tribes and offer the maximum amount of program design/redesign and financial flexibility for the various VPSO grantees;
- Consider creating upward mobility for VPSO positions: either through compacting or state statutory changes or both, consider providing for different levels of VPSO personnel

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related to levels of training; the highest VPSO level being equivalent in function, training, and pay to a State Trooper.

- Work to define the true cost of providing fully operational public safety services throughout rural Alaska. To date the VPSO program represents a line item within a single department's annual budget. The budget request for the program has varied depending on differing administrations' views and goals for the program. However, with a more specific statutory mission the legislature will need an accurate assessment of the VPSO program costs required to meet that mission.

VPSO Recommendations and Findings

Short Term Recommendations

Recommendation 1. Update the VPSO statutes to provide a clear law enforcement and public safety vision and mission for the program and provide VPSO personnel clear law enforcement duties and powers.

Findings:

1. The current VPSO statute contains no clear law enforcement function or duties for VPSO personnel. Neither does the statute contain a clear vision or mission for the VPSO program

Table 1: VPSO statutes compared to State Trooper statutes:

VPSO Duties	State Trooper Statutory Duties
<p>There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety officer program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to assist local governments and villages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ through nonprofit regional corporations, Alaska Native organizations, or municipalities • to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to serve as village public safety officers ○ to administer functions relative to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and ▪ providing probation and parole supervision to persons under supervision by communicating with and 	<p>The Department of Public Safety and each member of the state troopers is charged with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the enforcement of all criminal laws of the state, and • has the power of a peace officer of the state or a municipality and • those powers usually and customarily exercised by peace officers. • Each member of the state troopers may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prevent crime, ○ pursue and apprehend offenders, ○ obtain legal evidence, ○ institute criminal proceedings, ○ execute any lawful warrant or order of arrest, ○ make an arrest without warrant for a violation of law committed in the presence of the state trooper, and

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<p>monitoring the activities and progress of these persons at the direction of probation and parole officers</p> <p>Alaska Statute § 18.65.670</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may cooperate with other law enforcement agencies in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ detecting crime, ▪ apprehending criminals, and ▪ preserving law and order in the state. <p>Alaska Statute § 18.65.080</p>
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2. The lack of clearly articulated law enforcement duties for the VPSOs has hindered the program's effectiveness by allowing different expectations for the program to grow between the grantee organizations (and their constituencies) and the Department of Public Safety.
 - a. While the current statute lacks a clear public safety and law enforcement vision and mission, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety has broad authority over the program and over public safety statewide. No commissioner in the history of the program has exercised the available discretion to give the program a clear public safety or law enforcement mission, vision, or functions.
 - b. The history of the program has shown it is not reasonable to expect a department or one person at the commissioner level to exercise the legislature's public policy function and give the VPSO program a clear public safety and law enforcement mission, vision, and functions.
 - c. The legislature shares responsibility for allowing the state of public safety in rural Alaska to reach its current condition by failing to recognize earlier the deficiencies in the VPSO statutes.
3. Consider the Regional Public Safety Officer statute as a model. AS 18.65.680

Table 2. Regional Public Safety Officer statute compared to State Trooper statute:

Regional Public Safety Officer Duties	State Trooper Duties
<p>The commissioner of public safety may appoint regional public safety officers to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) provide an expanded public safety and law enforcement presence in rural areas of the state; (2) provide oversight and training for the village public safety officer program; (3) administer functions relating to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) protecting life and property in the rural areas of the state; (B) conducting investigations; (C) conducting search and rescue missions; (D) conducting local training programs in drug and alcohol awareness and prevention, water safety, and gun safety; 	<p>The Department of Public Safety and each member of the state troopers is charged with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the enforcement of all criminal laws of the state, and • has the power of a peace officer of the state or a municipality and • those powers usually and customarily exercised by peace officers. • Each member of the state troopers may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prevent crime, ○ pursue and apprehend offenders, ○ obtain legal evidence, ○ institute criminal proceedings, ○ execute any lawful warrant or order of arrest,

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<p>(4) perform other duties relating to public safety as directed by the commissioner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ make an arrest without warrant for a violation of law committed in the presence of the state trooper, and ○ may cooperate with other law enforcement agencies in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ detecting crime, ▪ apprehending criminals, and ▪ preserving law and order in the state.
<p>Alaska Statute § 18.65.010(b)</p>	<p>Alaska Stat. § 18.65.080</p>

Recommendation 2. Create more financial flexibility for the VPSO grantee organizations in the updated VPSO statutes.

Findings:

1. Historic and current Department of Public Safety statutory and program interpretation has denied to the grantee organizations an effective voice in the planning and implementation of this important program for the benefit of the residents within their respective regions; and
2. The grantee organizations' work with federal partners in managing and delivering health and social service programs sets a clear example that a compacting relationship can occur with less conflict; and
3. Examples of problems with the program's management by the department include current regulations and denials for funding requests that:
 - a. forbid spending grant money on facilities or housing;
 - b. forbid grantee organizations from supplementing VPSO salaries or offering bonuses with other non-VPSO grant funds;
 - c. The Copper River program has four villages on the road system. The department has forbidden the VPSOs from traveling between villages by only approving enough funds to fill a half a tank of gas for their state-provided vehicle.
 - d. Other regions commented that they also have been denied funds to move VPSOs from village to village within the region when the needs arise. Or denied funds to have a VPSO in "roving" status so they could be flexible and responsive to public safety needs that occur or to manage vacancies within the VPSO workforce.
 - e. Flexibility for the funds changes often with fluctuations in the department

Recommendation 3. Restore VPSO funding levels to FY18 levels.

Findings

1. The combination of a lack of clear law enforcement vision, mission, and duties for the program and the problematic approach to grant funding approvals has led to artificial funding lapses in the program.

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

2. The funding lapses were used as justification for reducing the current year VPSO program budget.

Recommendation 4. Fund unfunded mandates.

Findings.

1. Current regulations require the grantees to provide certain infrastructure or absorb additional liability and costs but forbid grant funds from covering the expenses.

Examples include:

- a. Grantees must provide housing and program related facilities (office space, holding cells);
- b. Grantees must indemnify the state for liability arising from the program's operations and thereby incur the associated insurance cost.

Recommendation 5. Related to Recommendation 4, in an updated VPSO statute, mandate that grant awards pay grantee organization their full indirect costs.

Findings.

These findings are based on comments made during listening sessions and on a presentation made at the 3/4/2019 House Tribal Affairs Committee (presentation is included as Appendix 4).

1. The Department institutes a cap on how much the program will pay of a grantee's indirect costs. Indirect costs represent overhead type costs a nonprofit or tribal organization incurs in operating multiple programs with different cost centers. Examples of items that factor into indirect costs include:
 - a. Human resources services including recruitment efforts;
 - b. Computer and IT infrastructure;
 - c. Finance services including payroll and accounts receivable/payable;
 - d. Organization administration, etc.
2. Artificially capping how much the program will pay indirect costs is an unfunded mandate and has the effect of requiring the grantee organizations to subsidize the VPSO program.
3. The VPSO program fulfills the public safety mission and police powers of the State of Alaska and the state should not require the program operators to subsidize a state program.

Recommendation 6. Move financial grant management to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Findings.

1. Current lack of clear law enforcement mission, vision, and duties for the program has led to a conflict of roles within the department between the VPSO program and the Division of Alaska State Troopers;

VPSO WORKING GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

2. Findings of examples of denied funding requests or VPSO role suppression:
 - a. New tires for all terrain vehicles where the vehicles themselves were approved program expenses;
 - b. Funds to allow VPSO personnel to rove between villages within a grantee organization region;
 - c. The department via regulation has forbidden VPSOs from working on felonies even though the department's own data shows that when VPSOs work felonies like sexual assault, the conviction rate for those crimes go up.
 - d. VPSOs are not permitted to attend SART (sexual assault response team) training. The justification given that "SART training is for Alaska State Troopers."

Recommendation 7. Maintain operational advisory, training, and experience requirement oversight at the Department of Public Safety.

Findings.

1. Continued qualification and training oversight will be needed for the continued operation of the VPSO program.
2. For the short term, the department is still the agency most capable of providing the program with operational oversight.

Recommendation 8. In statute create a Tribal/Grantee organization consultation process before the Department can change training and experience requirements.

Findings.

1. While formal statutory state/tribal compacting is examined as a long term goal, community public safety and effective law enforcement is an important enough public policy issue that allowing a government-to-government process for important elements of the program can only help to empower the communities operating the program and help to create a stronger and more viable program.
2. The grantees are in the best position to know and understand the training and experience needs required to offer effective law enforcement for their communities.

Recommendation 9. Revised versions (consistent with the recommendations of this report) of current VPSO regulations need to be placed in statute in order to operationalize the VPSO program and to facilitate the grant management moving to the Department of Commerce.

Resolution #: 2020-04

**Title: SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION OF
ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES**

Comments:

Please see timeline regarding recognition of Alaska Native tribes.

Recommendation: Do Pass

SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION OF ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** In existence since time immemorial, Tribes are the traditional governing nations of the Indigenous people of Alaska, each have their own distinct traditional cultures and forms of autonomous sovereign governments; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Native tribes have endured colonization, Congress's explicit termination of our aboriginal rights to the land and hunting and fishing rights, the State's purposeful intention to wipe tribes from history, and continual opposition to actions of self-determination such as child protection; and
- WHEREAS,** The foundation for federal recognition of tribes is in Article 1, the commerce clause of the US Constitution, US Supreme Court decisions, treaties, statutes and other agreements all which have added to a current robust federal relationship with the US government; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska has historically ignored federal preemptive law, requiring tribes to gain recognition through federal and state courts; and
- WHEREAS,** The State's lack of recognition of Alaska Native tribes has continued the termination era for tribes in Alaska and has been detrimental to the well-being of Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS,** Representative's Kopp, Edgmon, Ortiz, Story, Fields, Kreiss-Tomkins, Foster, Hannan, Claman, Zulkosky, LeDoux, Lincoln, Spohnholz, Hopkins, Johnston, Tarr, Tuck, and Stutes have recognized that our state lacks clear guidance on intergovernmental relations with tribes and have therefore sponsored legislation to rectify through a statutory change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board supports state recognition through a State legislative bill; and

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board supports HB 221, "An Act providing for state recognition of federally recognized tribes."

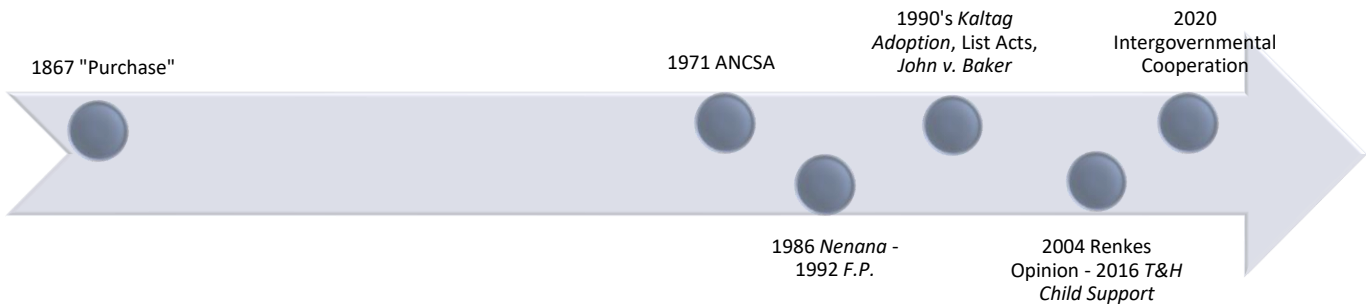
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Executive Board

TRIBAL LITIGATION IN ALASKA



- Over past 153 years, recognition of sovereign Alaska Native Tribes has been the norm
- Recent legal battles fighting recognition have been a painful and expensive aberration
- Federal and Alaskan authorities have recognized the existence of Alaska Native Tribes as independent, self-governing political groups via:
 - 1867 Treaty
 - Early 1900's federal reserves, allotments and townsites
 - 1930's Indian Reorganization Act
 - Public Law 280 extension of state jurisdiction to Indian Country in Alaska
 - 1970's inclusion of Alaska Native Tribes in ICWA, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Indian Financing Act
 - Creation of corporate entities *in addition to* governmental entities in ANCSA
 - 1990's Interior and Congressional Lists
 - *Kaltag Adoption Case*: sovereign tribal authority to adjudicate adoption of tribal citizen children
 - *John v. Baker*: sovereign tribal authority to adjudicate custody
 - *Tanana/Parks*: sovereign tribal authority to adjudicate child protection
 - *T&H Child Support*: sovereign tribal authority to adjudicate child support

Resolution #: 2020-05

**Title: PROTECTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF TRIBES TO SELF-
DETERMINATION: OPPOSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE YUKON
FLATS**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

PROTECTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF TRIBES TO SELF-DETERMINATION: OPPOSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE YUKON FLATS

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Protection of the Yukon River Watershed is critical to every village in the TCC region; and
- WHEREAS,** The Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge is a vital component of the Yukon River Watershed making up a complex network of wetlands, lakes and streams bisected by the Yukon River. The Refuge supports the highest density of breeding ducks in Alaska, and encompasses one of the greatest waterfowl breeding areas in North America; and
- WHEREAS,** The Yukon Flats is also critical habitat for Dall sheep, bears, wolves, wolverines and other furbearers, moose, caribou and salmon; and
- WHEREAS,** The continued practice of the traditional way of life by the Interior Alaska indigenous people is essential to the preservation of their physical, mental and spiritual well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** Doyon, Limited, a for-profit Native corporation, has entered into an agreement with Hilcorp to explore for oil and gas in the Yukon Flats Refuge without consulting the region's sovereign tribal entities; and
- WHEREAS,** The Yukon River Salmon run is a critical food source that sustains all of the villages, and is central to our culture along the Yukon River and its tributaries, and is critically jeopardized by any pollution that could ensue from oil and gas development in the Yukon Flats; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC recognizes that the risk to our way of life is substantial and immediate; and
- WHEREAS,** Infrastructure and development activities would alter the pristine nature of the landscape, destroy or modify habitats, alter wildlife behavior and movements (including migratory patterns), and introduce invasive species and affect the composition, structure, and functioning of soil, water, air, and other abiotic features; and
- WHEREAS,** The positive and negative social and economic effects from oil

development are unknown. Also unknown are the human health effects of oil and gas activities which are not well documented. Human health includes physiological, psychological, and social well-being and can be influenced by changes to both the physical and social environment; and

WHEREAS, We, the indigenous inhabitants of the TCC region, are the caretakers of the land, holding the land in trust for our grandchildren and all future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors opposes the exploration and development of oil and gas in the Yukon Flats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors supports its member villages, and commits to the protection of their lands, communities and environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors request that Doyon, Limited, cease all oil and gas exploration and development without the express consent of the Tribes in the Yukon Flats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors direct staff to draft a tribal protocol for developers to follow when seeking to develop natural resources on or near traditional lands of the Interior tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors reaffirms TCC's commitment to protect Tribal self-determination and recognize Tribes' sovereign status.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government, Arctic Village Council and Venetie Tribal Council

Resolution #: 2020-06

**Title: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE COMMITMENT TO CARBON
REDUCTION**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE COMMITMENT TO CARBON REDUCTION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference recognizes the adverse impact that climate change is having in and around our rural communities on everything from remote transportation to shifting foundations on major rural infrastructure projects such as schools and water/sewer systems; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC acknowledges that the main contributor to climate change, as identified in numerous IPCC reports and various other academic studies is related to Carbon Emissions; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference recognizes our own impact on carbon emissions across our region specifically with regard to the more than 200,000 sq ft of office and clinic space that we operate in Fairbanks and the more than 50,000 sq ft of clinic space across our rural communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Nearly 50% of fortune 500 companies in the US have made commitments to reduce their Carbon Footprint and implement energy efficiency improvements to their facilities and operations with the joint goal of controlling costs and reduce their impact on climate change.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that subject to the availability of funds, Tanana Chiefs Conference set a goal to offset at least 30% of its electric use at its major facilities through the implementation of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects within the next five years; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Tanana Chiefs Conference report on their success in achieving this goal during future annual conventions.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Beaver Tribal Council

PROPOSED

Resolution #: 2020-07

**Title: HEALTH RISKS OF E-CIGARETTES / VAPING DEVICES,
ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND THE NEED FOR EDUCATION
AND PREVENTION**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

HEALTH RISKS OF E-CIGARETTES / VAPING DEVICES, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND THE NEED FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Despite the fact that federal law prohibits sales of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes to youth and adults under age 21 nationwide, this does not prevent youth from having access to tobacco, e-cigarettes / vaping pods, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cigarette smoking went down from 2011 to 2019 from 4.3 % to 2.3 % for middle school students and from 15.8% to 5.8%; smokeless tobacco use went down during the same timeframe from 2.2% to 1.8 % for middle school students and 7.9% to 4.8% for high school students; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the CDC the use of e-cigarettes increased significantly, since 2011 and an estimated 3.6 Million teenagers in the US reported use of e-cigarettes in 2018, and 10.5% of middle-school students and 27.5 % of high-school students reported in 2019 they had used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2017, 15.7% of high school students in Alaska used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days; and
- WHEREAS,** According to Dr. Karen A. Cull, et.al. in the Journal of American Medical Association, (JAMA 2019; 322(21):2095 -2103, many youth self -reported frequent use and most reported using flavored e-cigarettes; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey data show that 34.2% of current high school e-cigarette users and 18.0% of current middle school e-cigarette users use e-cigarettes on 20 days or more per month and 'Monitoring the Future' found that in 2019, 11.7% of high school seniors vape every day; and
- WHEREAS,** Concerns over vaping have escalated in 2019 with a growing national outbreak of a life-threatening lung injury called EVALI (e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury). Since March 2019, more

than 2,500 hospitalizations and over 50 deaths due to EVALI have been reported to CDC, often involving otherwise healthy teens and young adults; and

WHEREAS, The Surgeon General of the United States, Jerome Adams, MD, has emphasized the importance of protecting our children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks, and the need to immediately address the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use, which requires awareness and collaboration among youth, adults, healthcare professionals and agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Surgeon General describes in his 'advisory on e-cigarette use among youth': "Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine – the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can harm the developing brain – which continues to develop until about age 25. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can impact learning, memory, and attention. Using nicotine in adolescence can also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs. In addition to nicotine, the aerosol that users inhale and exhale from e-cigarettes can potentially expose both themselves and bystanders to other harmful substances, including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs"; and

WHEREAS, In a recent article (December 2019) titled "until more is known about vaping and THC Use, caution is the best advice" by Dr. Anne Zinke, MD, State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer, she references that research of the contents of e-cigarettes & vaping devices, has found that even some "nicotine-free" e-cigarettes have been found to contain nicotine; some vape pods contain the equivalent amount of nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes; many also contain THC, the active ingredient of Marijuana; and Marijuana use by youth has been associated with a range of developmental and social problems. Early and continued use of marijuana can affect memory and attention, which can make learning and decision-making more difficult. Adolescent use is also associated with poorer school performance, increased school absences and drop-out rates, and mental health problems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors directs TCC staff to advocate at the State and Federal level for additional regulations that would prevent industry from targeting youth in their marketing of e-cigarettes and vaping products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board of Directors directs TCC staff to advocate for and seek funding and resources for prevention and education of the health risks of e-cigarettes / vaping devices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board of Directors directs TCC staff to develop culturally sensitive media and education materials for youth in the TCC region.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: TCC Regional Health Board

Resolution #: 2020-08

Title: GOVERNANCE OF INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Comments:

We recommend each Tribal Council carefully consider the impacts to IRHA governance and elections

Recommendation: Do Pass

GOVERNANCE OF INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** The Northway Tribal Council is concerned about the housing crisis experienced across rural Alaska and believe it could be improved with better governance from the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA); and
- WHEREAS,** IRHA was legally created by Alaska Statue 18.55.996, which also dictates that five individuals are to serve on the board of commissioners; and
- WHEREAS,** The IRHA board of commissioners should have proven experience in successful oversight of tribal programs including accounting and construction; and
- WHEREAS,** The IRHA board of commissioners should be accountable to the tribes they serve by providing regular reports on board approved projects, revenue, spending and board decisions and policies; and
- WHEREAS,** The IRHA board of commissioners should host an annual meeting in which tribes that have funding at IRHA are able to hear from all staff and commissioners and provide feedback; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC has six subregions which represent culturally and geographically distinct areas meet together at least twice a year to address sub regional issues and create sub regional priorities, and some subregions are not represented at the IRHA board of commissioners; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC elections rules mandate how IRHA commissioners are elected.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors strongly encourages the IRHA Board of Commissioners to adopt transparent reporting to tribes on revenue, budgets and spending and other items as to be suggested, and host a cost efficient annual meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that starting in 2021, only those communities that are served by IRHA are eligible to vote in IRHA elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the TCC Full Board of Directors strongly encourages the IRHA board of commissioners to amend bylaws to create staggered seats in which all subregions will be represented in a three-year period or in the alternative TCC elections rules are created for the same result.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Northway Village Council

Resolution #: 2020-09

**Title: URGENT NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE
EDUCATORS**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

URGENT NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATORS

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** There has been a significant decline in the number of Alaska Native educators teaching in Interior Alaska school districts in the last several years due to teachers leaving the classrooms for other positions, retirement, and the low numbers of Alaska Natives seeking to teach in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska has requested guidance and public comment on declaring an emergency for teacher recruitment and certification in Alaska, on the premise that over 200 teaching positions statewide were unfilled at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, there are 36 Alaska Native educators in Interior Alaska school districts in the Tanana Chiefs Conference region, with 24 of those educators in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, to fill teaching positions within the state, Alaskan schools hired 835 new teachers prepared out-of-state in 2018-19, and 712 new teachers prepared out-of-state in 2019-20; and
- WHEREAS,** The data on the number of Alaska Native students pursuing Education degrees and teaching certification is based on student self-reporting at institutions of higher learning; the University of Alaska reports that during the Fall of 2019 there were 256 Alaska Native students enrolled in the University of Alaska education programs, with only 19 Alaska Native students in secondary education programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The Association of Interior Native Educators (AINE) highly supports the urgent, immediate, and long-term educational and professional development of Alaska Native educators to fill Alaska K-12 classrooms and school district administrative positions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors directs TCC to partner with the Association of Interior Native Educators and other Interior Alaska Native entities and educational institutions, including our statewide post-secondary institutions of higher education to significantly increase the recruitment and retention of Alaska Native educators in our interior and statewide schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subject to the availability of funds, the TCC Full Board of Directors encourages and supports the individual and collective efforts of our Interior Alaska Native organizations to explore, create, deliberately align and maintain long-term initiatives to develop and retain Alaska Native educators by dedicating innovative projects, culturally-based programs, accessible scholarships, relevant professional learning opportunities, and a shared vision to systematically increase and cultivate Alaska Native educators for our children, our communities, our region and Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference requests that the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development modify its statewide ESSA plan to designate up to 50% of Title II funds, received statewide, be distributed to an indigenous teacher training program focused on giving full scholarships to aspiring Alaska Native teachers.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Northway Village Council

Resolution #: 2020-10

**Title: REVIEW POSITIONS TO ENSURE THE PROPER BACKGROUND
CHECKS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

REVIEW POSITIONS TO ENSURE THE PROPER BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Barrier Crimes Act (ABCA) is a State of Alaska statute that likely applies to TCC because TCC receives Medicaid payments from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the health of TCC's beneficiaries, AS 47.05.300(a); The implementing regulations require a specific criminal background check for applicants, employees, board members, volunteers and independent contractors in positions with "regular contact with recipients of services" or "with access to personal or with "control over the impact on the financial well-being of recipients of services" 7 AAC 10.900(b); and

WHEREAS, The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, is a federal statute that requires TCC applicants, employees, volunteers, or independent contractors, in a full time or temporary position, that involves "regular contact with or control over Native children", to pass a specific criminal background check as defined within the ICPA statute and regulations; 25 U.S.C 3207(c); 25 C.F.R. 63.12; and

WHEREAS, Currently, TCC policy might require certain positions to pass background checks that are not required by law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors direct staff to undergo a thorough review to ensure the respective background checks extend only to the applicants, employees, volunteers and contractors required by law and should exclude other positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Full Board and staff continue to support and advocate for the amendment of background check laws to allow for healthy and safe potential applicants to be eligible to serve TCC and tribes.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

PROPOSED

Resolution #: 2020-11

Title: CODY'S LAW – POLICE USE OF FORCE

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

CODY'S LAW – POLICE USE OF FORCE

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** As a percentage of total population, Alaska Natives and American Indians are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other group and are 3 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than white Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** As a percentage of total population, Alaska Natives and American Indians are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other group and are 3 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than white Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** These deaths can be partially attributed to the lack of mental healthcare services for Alaska Natives, as nearly half of all AN/AI deaths at the hands of law enforcement are made up of tribal members threatening suicide or experiencing other mental health crises; and
- WHEREAS,** As state and federal funding for mental health services is particularly acute, there is a shortage of Alaska Native professionals who understand cultural factors impacting patients, resulting in law enforcement often being the first untrained and ill-equipped responder to mental health crises; and
- WHEREAS,** A thorough review of current policies, practices, and tools used by law enforcement as an alternative to lethal force, including tasers and other nonlethal weapons, and recommended best practices to reduce the number of violent interactions between law enforcement and all members of the community would highlight areas of needed improvement and opportunities for training; and
- WHEREAS,** Legislation is necessary to install transparency within Alaskan law enforcement communities, to guarantee independent investigation of use-of-force incidents by law enforcement, to ensure that the civil rights of the citizenry are not violated, to prevent the ongoing abuse, harassment, and killing of men and women within Alaska by law enforcement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors supports and advocates for the introduction, passage, and implementation of “Cody’s Law”, to include:

Mandatory Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) using the Memphis Model, incorporating medical professionals into 911 calls involving suicide, mental illness and persons in crisis calls within the State of Alaska; and

The creation of a civilian review board comprised of individuals from stakeholder groups, including a member from both legislative bodies, the Alaska Police Standards Council and the Alaska Native community; and

The creation of an investigative body independent of any law enforcement agency, for the sole purpose of investigating officer involved shootings, police brutality and misconduct. This investigative body should be modeled after the National Transportation and Safety Board and subject to evaluation and monitoring by the civilian review board; and

The enhanced vetting of all new recruits to law enforcement in the state of Alaska and a comprehensive review of existing law enforcement officers including history of sexual assault, police brutality, misconduct and cultural discrimination; and

Consultation with the Alaska Native Tribes to allow input when drafting legislation concerning reformed policy and procedures surrounding CIT, background checks, reviews and the formation of investigative entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors stand in solidarity with the community in our intention to bring reform to state and local law enforcement use-of-force policies and to bring about a new age of transparency and accountability.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Resolution #: 2020-12

**Title: UPDATING TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE HARASSMENT AND
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER POLICIES**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass, if we get the funding before March 12.

UPDATING TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE HARASSMENT AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER POLICIES

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC has a harassment policy that expressly prohibits any form of employee harassment, including derogatory comments, jokes, or innuendos, and threats or intimidation regarding an employee's race, ethnicity, sex, religion or disability; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC has an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy that states TCC will provide equal employment opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment and TCC will recruit, hire, train, and promote persons in all job classifications without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, physical or mental disability or history of disability, sex, marital status, change in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, military status, citizenship status, or genetic information; and
- WHEREAS,** The harassment and EEO employer policies were last updated in 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC seeks to promote a safe and accepting working environment for all employees and where each person has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits unlawful discriminatory practices, including harassment; and
- WHEREAS,** While no state or federal protections exist for sexual orientation and gender identity, many large companies are choosing to provide harassment protections to their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees; and
- WHEREAS,** A city-wide ordinance protecting citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations for Fairbanks was initially passed by the Fairbanks city council but was then abruptly vetoed by the Fairbanks mayor, despite a majority (80%) of public comments in support of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Federal equal employment opportunity protections for sex may not include sexual orientation or gender identity, if challenged in court; and

WHEREAS, The National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center published a data profile in 2015 that summarized the status of Native lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and Two Spirit communities and reported that 36% of Native American transgender employees reported losing a job because of their gender identity; that even when employment is maintained, it is far less likely to be full-time and that American Indians reported the lowest rate of full-time employment among LGBT adults; that these trends affect household incomes and the ability for same-sex couples to provide for their families where more than 1 in 3 children being raised by Native same-sex couples were living below the federal poverty level and more than half of LGBT Native Americans are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that employees who feel accepted and safe with sharing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity at work report lower levels of anxiety, less conflict between work and personal life, greater job satisfaction, more sharing of employers' goals, higher levels of satisfaction with their co-workers, more self-esteem, and better physical health; and

WHEREAS, Research has revealed that LGBT and Two Spirit Natives' self-rated health and well-being improved if the individual felt high levels of actualization, which is positive integration between their self-identity and racial group identity; and

WHEREAS, There are TCC employees who are not currently adequately protected in the harassment and EEO policies, if they were to be harassed or discriminated against based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors supports inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in both the harassment and EEO policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors supports creating a safe work environment for all employees, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, which includes creating a culture of acceptance and inclusivity in all Tanana Chiefs Conference buildings, meetings, activities, practices, and policies.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Beaver Tribal Council

PROPOSED

Resolution #: 2020-13

**Title: THANKING THE DENALI COMMISSION FOR CLINIC
CONSTRUCTION FUNDING**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

THANKING THE DENALI COMMISSION FOR CLINIC CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** The mission of TCC Health Services is: in partnership with those we serve to promote and enhance spiritual, physical, mental and emotional wellness through education, prevention and the delivery of quality services; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC Villages in the interior have historically been identified as “underserved” by various federal reports in the fields of water sewer and healthcare services; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference in partnership with our tribal communities and the federal government are proud to strive to achieve our unified vision of “Healthy People Across Generations”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Denali Commission has recently engaged Tanana Chiefs Conference with a \$1 Million dollar investment to support our new clinics in Tok, Evansville and Manley Hot Springs to help Tanana Chiefs Conference and our tribes achieve our shared Mission and Vision.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors would like to formally thank Federal Co-Chair Jason Hoke and the Denali Commission for their support of these important healthcare facility projects in the Interior of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference would like to express their appreciation and support for the Denali Commission and request that the Alaskan Delegation continue to fight for increased funding so that the Denali Commission will continue to support the health and wellbeing of rural Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Beaver Village Council

PROPOSED

Resolution #: 2020-14

Title: YOUTH REQUEST TO IMPROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

YOUTH REQUEST TO IMPROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, There are a lot of problems in the villages including intergenerational trauma that stem from the abuse of drugs and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, In our villages there is a high amount of violence, vandalism, theft, assaults, child neglect, elder abuse, verbal abuse and sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, There are often situations caused by reckless driving and driving under the influence which places residents at high risk; and

WHEREAS, There is not enough resources, including human resources, to address self-harm and suicidal awareness, prevention and response to suicides in the village; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for increased resources to address search and rescue incidents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors direct staff to continue to assist the village in obtaining more trained Public Safety Officers, including, Tribal Police, Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers, and Security Officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tanana Chiefs Conference continue to support the tribes to enforce Tribal Civil Law and Order Codes, equally regardless the relationship or association between officers and offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subject to the availability of funds, the Tanana Chiefs Conference will upon request, work with each village to develop PROVIDES SUPPORT TO EVERY VILLAGE TO DEVELOP a Community Public Safety Response Plan for the safety and well-being of the village.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Youth Delegates of 2019 Convention

Resolution #: 2020-15

**Title: URGING FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO
CONTINUE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN RURAL
ALASKA**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

URGING FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO CONTINUE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN RURAL ALASKA

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) provides free, over-the-air television service to approximately 185 rural and isolated Alaska communities and remains a primary, affordable information source for many users; and
- WHEREAS,** ARCS, a television service formerly known as RATNet, is owned by the State of Alaska and is a joint venture of Alaska Public Media and a statewide network of low-powered television stations. The state relies on ARCS as part of its emergency broadcast system; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska has operated ARCS in partnerships with rural village community organizations and urban television broadcasters for over three decades; and
- WHEREAS,** ARCS continues to provide a valuable service to rural Alaska, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk residents in remote areas, as a free-to-watch over the air television service; and
- WHEREAS,** ARCS delivers vital weather and emergency information, as well as news, public affairs, entertainment and educational programming in some of Alaska's most remote and economically depressed regions; and
- WHEREAS,** Public broadcasting in Alaska provides over the air non-commercial public service programming to un-served and underserved audiences throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Public broadcasting provides an unparalleled level of local public service programming including local news; weather and marine conditions; community information; emergency, health and safety information; music and public affairs programming; and live event coverage; and
- WHEREAS,** Public broadcasting serves bush and rural communities where commercial service does not exist. Service in the bush is provided by

originating stations based in bush and rural communities and by urban stations with equipment in remote areas; and

WHEREAS, Public broadcasting's public safety mission is reflected in participation in the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS), which for many is a primary source of local, statewide and national emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, Public broadcasting's education mission is reflected in the high quality of its children's programming, educational outreach in the community, and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages; and

WHEREAS, Public broadcasting's local service mission is characterized by local ownership, local control of programming, deep community engagement; strong partnerships with many community organizations; and

WHEREAS, The collaborative relationship between the State of Alaska, the public communications services it supports, and the residents in rural and urban Alaska communities who depend on those services every day, represents a unique and valuable partnership worthy of strong support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors urge Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the Alaska Rural Communications Service, and Satellite Services are fully funded and to restore eliminated funding for public broadcasting so that residents in bush and rural Alaska continue to receive these fundamental radio and television services.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

Resolution #: 2020-16

**Title: TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL PROTOCOL, LAW ENFORCEMENT
RESPONSE STANDARDS AND PROPER FACILITIES IN RURAL
ALASKA FOR THE DECEASED**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL PROTOCOL, LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE STANDARDS AND PROPER FACILITIES IN RURAL ALASKA FOR THE DECEASED

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** In rural villages there are significantly more fatal accidents and criminal activities that lead to death, per capita than experienced in urban Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Law enforcement response time in rural villages is not adequate to meet the needs of the deceased and the community impacts of the death(s); and
- WHEREAS,** Inadequate and untimely law enforcement response to potential crime scenes creates barriers to justice and prevents decency for the recently deceased; and
- WHEREAS,** The lack of official responsibilities and duties with associated deadlines creates tremendous burdens on the rural communities; and
- WHEREAS,** The lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure, in addition to climate change are contributing factors increasing the onset of early decomposition of the deceased; and
- WHEREAS,** Many villages have insufficient facilities to hold a deceased body that awaits law enforcement response and/or flights; and
- WHEREAS,** In some situations it can be several days before a deceased body is sent to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Anchorage; and
- WHEREAS,** In many Interior villages, a culturally preferred funeral service includes viewing an open casket for healing and grieving purposes, and the likelihood for an open casket is significantly decreased when there is a lack of appropriate response and village holding facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors direct the Tribal Development Planning division staff to include in community plans, facilities for the deceased and assist the tribes to seek grant funding for this purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED TCC staff work with state officials to create a protocol detailing the proper handling of the deceased to include law enforcement responsibilities and deadlines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TCC staff work with the Department of Public Safety to improve response time to rural villages to insure the deceased are kept in a preserved state so the remains are given decency, respect and may have the proper cultural burial.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Kaltag Tribal Council

Resolution #: 2020-17

Title: RELIABLE US POSTAL SERVICES

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

RELIABLE US POSTAL SERVICES

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Villages and community members rely on the United States Postal Services (USPS) to deliver mail, medication and other critical items timely; and
- WHEREAS,** Over the last couple of years village communities in the TCC Region are increasingly experiencing non-weather related delays of mail delivery by airlines who are responsible for the USPS mail delivery to the villages,- one community did not receive mail for over a month,- as well as delays in access to mail at local post-offices due to sudden post office closures in villages for weeks on end; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC Health Services is shipping between 1,000 -1,400 medication refills per month to patients in the TCC villages through USPS 1st class certified mail, where TCC is paying for 1st class certified mail delivery; and
- WHEREAS,** We are experiencing that USPS 1st class, barcoded certified mail is not scanned properly at the various mail distribution locations, so accurate tracking of certified mail is not possible; and
- WHEREAS,** For example, the USPS Mail was being held up with an airline carrier for over 2 weeks in November 2019, which led to at least 1,000 people in 3 communities not receiving their mail for over 2 weeks; which resulted in a significant number of patients not receiving their refill medication timely, which led to several emergency situations with patients running out of critical medication and in at least one situation led to an evacuation of a patient by air-ambulance; and
- WHEREAS,** Rural villages also experience barriers to post office access due to lack of available human resources which could be address with flexible hours and multiple part-time hires.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors directs staff to engage the Alaska Delegation and other stakeholders, and advocate for significant improvements in the USPS access and delivery of critical mail services to the rural communities in the TCC Region.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Health Board

Resolution #: 2020-18

**Title: EXPAND BROADBAND TO INCREASE DISTANCE LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TCC REGION**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

EXPAND BROADBAND TO INCREASE DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TCC REGION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Education is a high priority for our Alaska Native people and currently education is currently underfunded by the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Improvements in basic core subjects such as reading, math and science need to be improved in many of our rural schools; and
- WHEREAS,** Expanded broadband increases student's access to curriculum opportunities provided online; and
- WHEREAS,** Students in rural villages can participate in unlimited degree programs that are available online, including online degree programs supported by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; and
- WHEREAS,** It is important for our students to have the option to remain in their village to continue living their traditional lifestyle, which helps prevent outmigration and the continuity of our culture; and
- WHEREAS,** The ability to continue education in the villages allows students to maintain their support system, which is an important factor for student success.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference work on providing an expansion of broadband, so that distant learning classes with the University of Alaska and through special organizations such as Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP): STEM can offer a higher level of education for our rural schools in the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Tanana Tribal Council

PROPOSED

Resolution #: 2020-19

**Title: SUPPORTING THE TRIBAL COMPACTING OF EDUCATION IN
ALASKA**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

SUPPORTING THE TRIBAL COMPACTING OF EDUCATION IN ALASKA

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Expanding access to high quality education has been a primary goal of the TCC from the founding meeting of the Tanana Chiefs with Judge Wickersham in 1913 to the present day; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribes of the TCC Region would like to see even better educational outcomes for our students, including proficiency in our Native languages, even higher graduation rates and test scores; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribes of the TCC Region support self-determination and sovereignty, including the right of our tribes to educate our own Tribal Members; and
- WHEREAS,** This right is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly Articles 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and finally, and especially, Article 14 which recognizes the right that Indigenous peoples have to “establish and control their own educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages...without discrimination...” and it is important and relevant to note that the United States of America is a signatory to this Declaration; and
- WHEREAS,** The potential for Tribes to be able to compact and manage k-12 educational services to our members from the State of Alaska and from the United States is an important step; and
- WHEREAS,** There are many components in the educational system from accreditation, to teacher certification, to academic standards, and so forth, which may need to be addressed in this process; and
- WHEREAS,** The diverse Tribes of the interior of Alaska may decide to compact with the State of Alaska and the United States of America to exercise their sovereign rights, to exercise their self-determination, to improve schools, and to increase educational attainment across the region, by compacting with this State and/or Nation individually or possibly in consortia; and

WHEREAS, Legislation on the State level and the Federal level of governance is necessary to enable the compacting of Education by our member Tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors support and advocate that the Alaska Legislature adopt SB136, State-Tribal Education Compact Schools, to provide the option for Tribes to enter into compacts managing our education systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference requests that additional financing and aid be granted to the Tribes by the Federal government to meet the Trust Responsibility to provide educational services to the Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development work with Tribes via government to government consultation to adopt appropriate regulations for Tribally Compacted Schools, including an alternate minimum school size.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government and the Native Village of Tanana

Resolution #: 2020-20

**Title: CALLING FOR THE TERMINATION OF OIL TAX CREDITS IN
ALASKA AND THE RETURN OF A FAIR OIL TAX STRUCTURE**

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

CALLING FOR THE TERMINATION OF OIL TAX CREDITS IN ALASKA AND THE RETURN OF A FAIR OIL TAX STRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has sustained multiple budget cuts across many sectors important to our people including health care, infrastructure development, and higher education, and Governor Dunleavy has indicated he will seek further cuts to address the budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has been relying in greater and greater measure on the Constitutional Budget Reserve, and the Permanent Fund Reserve, to address budgetary shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, No legitimate discussion has taken place within the Alaska State Legislature around restructuring or discontinuing the current oil and gas tax credit structure; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska should not be cutting vital services to our communities like K-12 Education, the Power Cost Equalization program, the University of Alaska, and Medicaid, among many others; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska is still paying oil tax credits to major oil companies and to exploratory companies all while relying on the Permanent Fund for more of its operating revenue; and

WHEREAS, Alaska should immediately halt oil production and exploration credits so that all oil producers in all areas of the state pay an equal and fair share; and

WHEREAS, Oil companies should not be subsidized while critical programs and Permanent Fund Dividends are being cut.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors calls for the termination of all oil tax credits in the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCC Full Board of Directors supports legislation and/or ballot initiatives that seek to establish a fair oil and gas taxation structure that preserves vital state programs and infrastructure, and the PFD for the future of all Alaskan people.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Arctic Village Council

Resolution #: 2020-21

Title: ESTABLISH A CHILD PROTECTION STRATEGIC PLAN

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

ESTABLISH A CHILD PROTECTION STRATEGIC PLAN

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC and the Interior Tribes strive to support tribal self-determination, improve community wellness, and reverse health, education and socio-economic disparities of Native people; and
- WHEREAS,** In order to advance tribal governments, Native children must be prioritized through education, safety, nurturing and care. Without a focus on children, we will be continually combatting substance abuse, suicide, crime rates, and child in government custody; and
- WHEREAS,** Native children that suffer neglect, abuse, and trauma experience ramifications long into adulthood; child protection services through the state and tribes intend to protect children from these kind of experiences, but often create additional side effects of the trauma when removed from the home, family and community; and
- WHEREAS,** Given the tremendous impact of childhood trauma on communities, TCC and the tribes need to give child protection services the attention, time and resources necessary to equalize the level of priority that is given to housing, subsistence, mental health, VPSO, health-care and education are prioritized; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC and the tribes need better data and information regarding child protection in order to create a robust child protection vision which will improve the safety and wellness of children; currently data for tracking Native children at risk, in custody, in out of home placement, away from family, and other relevant information is being developed; and
- WHEREAS,** Once children are removed from the home, the services provided to the family for reunification and family placement are extremely lacking, with limited or no services provided to parent through case plans and family contact; and
- WHEREAS,** The current TCC child protection contract between TCC and the tribes is outdated and needs to be revised to address the growth in OCS cases, tribally initiated cases, case planning, family referral services and diligent relative services; and

WHEREAS, TCC child protection and tribal courts need coordinated service delivery through clarified roles, responsibilities, communication and increased resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, subject to the availability of funds, directs TCC to create a robust Child protection five-year strategic plan to include all relevant programs across TCC departments, to establish annual goals with progress and challenges to be formally adopted by the full board and reported to the full board each year; The plan will seek to obtain relevant data, achieve increased safety for Native children, increased Native foster homes, decreased out of home placements, decreased out of family placements, increased use of tribal courts for child protection, increased staff and social workers focused on child protection matters, increased role of diligent relative search and scopes of work through the tribal state welfare compact, and new funding for child protection programs.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Nulato Tribal Council

Resolution #: 2020-22

Title: FAIRBANKS BASED TRIBAL COURT

Comments:

The resolution committee points out that TCC has sought and obtained funding to establish subregional courts and have done extensive hours in development. This resolution would not take away from village tribal courts or subregional efforts.

Recommendation: Do Pass

FAIRBANKS BASED TRIBAL COURT

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** TCC and the Interior Tribes strive to support tribal self-determination, improve community wellness, and reverse health, education and socio-economic disparities of Native people; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal courts are a powerful tool to address substance abuse, child neglect, criminal activity, domestic violence and other community issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes often face challenges presiding in cases of tribal members outside their village; and
- WHEREAS,** Many tribal members live in Fairbanks and are not currently provided the option to access tribal courts; and
- WHEREAS,** There is increased funding for substance abuse courts and other specialty courts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, directs TCC to develop a plan and seek funding, to create a tribally authorized Fairbanks based tribal court to serve Fairbanks tribal members and those cases referred by tribes that are unable to hear the case in the village based tribal court.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Nulato Tribal Council

Resolution #: 2020-23

Title: SUPPORT A STATE CHILD PROTECTION LAW

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

SUPPORT A STATE CHILD PROTECTION LAW

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed by Congress in 1978 to help prevent the widespread practice before 1978 of state courts permitting non-Indian persons and couples to adopt, or be foster placements for Indian children; and
- WHEREAS,** National Indian and non-Indian organizations, state governments, members of Congress, tribes and tribal communities, and thousands of AI/AN individuals have supported ICWA as an essential and effective policy that protects the best interest of AI/AN children; and
- WHEREAS,** Early application and consistent compliance with ICWA prevents unlawful removals of Alaska Native children from family and promotes stable placements in loving, permanent homes, connected to family and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** Current research shows that family, culture, and community promote resiliency and healthy development in Alaska Native youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Native children continue to be taken from their homes at alarming rates (rates three times higher than other children) due largely to misapplication, ignorance, or willful non-compliance with the mandates of ICWA and often without notice to or engagement with the child's tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** On June 14, 2016 the Bureau of Indian Affairs promulgated comprehensive, legally-binding regulations clarifying the requirements of ICWA for state courts; and
- WHEREAS,** These regulations provide valuable clarification for both states and tribes on the steps to properly implement ICWA requirements and necessitate that both states and tribes work closely together; and
- WHEREAS,** ICWA's almost 60% of the children in foster care in 2020 are Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS,** Recent opposition to ICWA has risen in the form of frivolous litigation, misinformation campaigns with Congress, and attempts to garner media attention by exploiting tragic events and promoting racist,

inaccurate stereotypes of Alaska Native and American Indian tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors does hereby recognize and firmly support the continued need for the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, in an effort to improve Indian Child Welfare Act compliance and implementation and to mitigate the possibility of harm and lack of permanency to Alaska Native children in the foster care system, support the adoption of Alaska statutes and regulations that mirror the intent of federal ICWA.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Evansville Tribal Council

Resolution #: 2020-24

Title: CREATION OF A TCC RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

Comments:

Recommendation: Do Pass

CREATION OF A TCC RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of Alaska people who are incarcerated are Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the crimes committed by Alaska Native were when they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Many of our incarcerated Alaska Natives have unaddressed trauma, contributing to their substance abuse and poor actions; and

WHEREAS, There are limited services within the prison system to help the incarcerated with their behavioral health and substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, There are some resources available to persons re-entering society after incarceration, but most are not culturally relevant; and

WHEREAS, TCC has no formal re-entry program to help tribal members who so need the support and guidance to rebuild healthy lives, which contributes to healthy communities and families; and

WHEREAS, TCC has existing programs that could address the behavioral health, housing, education, employment and medical needs of our people leaving prison.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, subject to the availability of funds, direct TCC staff to create a TCC re-entry program to serve tribal members leaving prison; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that existing program resources and services be identified to be used or coordinated with the newly created TCC re-entry program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TCC pursue grant opportunities to help support a re-entry program.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Evansville Tribal Council

PROPOSED

Subregional / Village Specific Resolutions

REQUESTING A POST OFFICE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN BIRCH CREEK VILLAGE

- WHEREAS,** The Birch Creek Tribal Council is the governing body of the federally recognized tribe Birch Creek Village; and
- WHEREAS,** The Birch Creek Tribal Council is the elected governing body of the Tribe, authorized to act by and on behalf of its members; and
- WHEREAS,** The majority of our population are elderly that require medication for health and wellness; and
- WHEREAS,** The Birch Creek Village does not have a community health aide or a working clinic building; and
- WHEREAS,** The medications for our elderly population are dependent upon regular, dependable mail carrier service from Fort Yukon Post Office; and
- WHEREAS,** It has been documented that there was no mail flight for one month and our elders were without medications needed for serious medical conditions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Birch Creek Tribe is requesting assistance with establishing a United States Post Office in Birch Creek, AK for the health and wellness of Birch Creek Tribal Members.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Birch Creek Tribal Council

**REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM TANANA CHIEFS
CONFERENCE TO SEEK EMERGENCY FUNDS TO
CONTINUE THE WELL WATER AND SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM
PROJECT FOR THE VILLAGE OF KOYUKUK**

WHEREAS, The Koyukuk Tribal Council is a federally recognized Tribe and is the governing body of the village of Koyukuk; and

WHEREAS, The Koyukuk Tribal Council has designated the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortia (ANTHC) as their designated Well and Septic System Project Entity; and

WHEREAS, ANTHC selected AHTNA, Inc. to be the subcontractor for the well drilling, installing the septic tanks, and service continuation; and

WHEREAS, Unforeseen costs have depleted the budget to complete the in-house plumbing, due to having to drill twice as deep for quality water; and

WHEREAS, The Koyukuk Tribal Council request technical and grant writing assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference to seek emergency funding to continue the Well and Septic System Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Koyukuk Tribal Council requests Tanana Chiefs Conference to work with the Koyukuk Tribal Council and ANTHC to strategize and identify emergency funding sources to continue the Koyukuk Well and Septic System Project.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Koyukuk Tribal Council

PROPOSED

REQUESTING A FULL TIME HEALTH AIDE IN ALATNA AND AN ITINERANT HEALTH AIDE BE PROVIDED UNTIL A PERMANENT HEALTH AIDE IS HIRED

WHEREAS, The Alatna Tribal Council is a federally recognized Tribe and is the governing body of the tribal members of Alatna, Alaska. There are:

- a) Thirteen year-round residents in Alatna currently;
- b) Six of these residents are elderly and in need of health care that is available year-round;
- c) Residents volunteer on an as-need basis to perform emergency medical services, without proper training and/or instruction; and

WHEREAS, The Alatna Tribal Council is concerned for the health and safety of the residents, friends, relatives and guests of Alatna because the village of Alatna needs a permanent Health Aide; and

WHEREAS, Under PL 102-477, Tribes have the option to develop a plan to consolidate certain Federal program funding and services to increase efficiencies, and provide more seamless services to better assist families in their efforts to become more self-sufficient, and the PL 102-477 consolidated service plan developed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference includes programs and services provided to members of the Alatna Village Tribe (Alatna Tribe).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alatna Tribal Council supports TCCs efforts in attaining a Community Health Aide for Alatna; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alatna Tribal Council desires to open communications to develop a plan to implement training for emergency response volunteers in the village; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that due to the annual Spring break-up and Fall freeze-up of the Koyukuk River during the months of May and October, respectively, vital health care is not accessible and in order to be prepared for emergencies the Alatna Tribal Council requests that an Itinerant Health Aide fill the position during these months until such time that a permanent hire is completed.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Alatna Tribal Council

SUPPORTING ANCSA LAND CONVEYANCE TO CANYON VILLAGE KIAN TR'EE CORPORATION

- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference is a consortium of 42 tribes, representing over 14,000 Alaska Natives in Interior Alaska, that have banded together since 1915 in advocating for tribal rights; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native Corporation to receive and manage lands and funds; and
- WHEREAS,** The purpose of ANCSA was to settle land claims of Alaska Natives and to provide them with the means to pursue economic development for the benefit of Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Native community of Canyon Village was recognized as a group under ANCSA but did not receive the land it was eligible to receive, due in part, to an error by the federal government; and
- WHEREAS,** Canyon Village and its 100-plus descendants are currently requesting the Department of Interior convey 6,400 acres to Canyon Village's ANCSA village corporation, Kian Tr'ee Corporation, that is legally due to them; and
- WHEREAS,** The future of any Alaska Native community is based on use of its land for housing, gathering and subsistence.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors support the efforts of the people of Canyon Village to seek the authorization of the ANCSA land conveyance to Canyon Village Kian Tr'ee Corporation with additional subsurface ownership to avoid unwanted subsurface development.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Canyon Village

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELDER CARE FACILITY IN THE YUKON FLATS AREA

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council desires to develop a strategy to alleviate the high costs of elder care and housing within the Yukon Flats Area; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council has determined that there is a great need for elder care and housing within the Yukon Flats area; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council requests Tanana Chiefs Conference's assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$400,000.00 to construct a new elder care facility within the Yukon Flats.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby declares that the planned construction of an elder care facility project is essential to the health and safety of village residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$400,000.00 for construction of an elder facility within the Yukon flats Area.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

CHALKYITSIK VILLAGE WASHATERIA AND WATER TANK UPGRADE

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is empowered to protect the health and safety of its tribal members; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council washateria needs repairs, new equipment and a new water tank.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference seek funding to upgrade our existing washateria facility and a new water tank.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELDER FACILITY/KITCHEN PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council (CVC) is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The CVC has determined that this is a need for Elder Care within Chalkyitsik Area; and

WHEREAS, The CVC requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assist in seeking funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 to construct a new elder facility with a kitchen in Chalkyitsik; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby declares that the planned construction of an elder facility project is a priority in Chalkyitsik, Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for construction of an Elder Facility Project.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

CHALKYITSIK RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY REWIRING PROJECT

- WHEREAS,** The Chalkyitsik Village Council mission and purpose to improve the health and welfare of the residents of Chalkyitsik; and
- WHEREAS,** The Chalkyitsik Village Council operates and maintains the Chalkyitsik Utility, which is the only source of electricity in the village; and
- WHEREAS,** The Chalkyitsik Village Council has determined that its residential homes electricity wiring is outdated and needs replacing; and
- WHEREAS,** The Chalkyitsik Residential Electricity Rewiring Project assessment was completed in 2016 and requests Tanana Chiefs Conference board and staff assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$100,000.00.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby certifies that it has received and considered citizen comments and hereby declares that the planned Chalkyitsik Residential Electricity Rewiring Project is essential to the health and safety of village residents; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully request Tanana Chiefs Conference to seek funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of Chalkyitsik Residential Electricity Rewiring Project which is essential to the health and safety of the village residents.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

CHALKYITSIK FIRST RESPONDERS PAY

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is empowered to protect the health and safety of its tribal members; and

WHEREAS, Chalkyitsik does not have a health aide and when there is no coverage at the local clinic the first responders are on call and requests that Tanana Chiefs Conference seek funding to pay the Chalkyitsik First Responders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference seek funding to pay Chalkyitsik First Responders.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

CHALKYITSIK FUEL TRUCK/HEAVY EQUIPMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is concerned with the fuel truck/heavy equipment used in construction projects and the high costs of maintenance and repairs; and

WHEREAS, The equipment has reached the end of its usefulness.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby certifies that it has received and considered citizen comments and hereby declares that the planned heavy equipment purchase project which is a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the fuel truck/heavy equipment purchase project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference assists the tribe to purchase heavy equipment; fuel truck, 380 dozer, backhoe/grader, loader and a dump truck (10 cubic feet capacity).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

CHALKYITSIK VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council is empowered to protect the health and safety of its tribal members; and

WHEREAS, That Chalkyitsik Village Council has determined that there is a need for public safety in Chalkyitsik, Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference to seek funding for a village public safety officer in Chalkyitsik, Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

RENOVATION/UPGRADE OF VILLAGE COUNCIL FACILITIES PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Chalkyitsik Village Council (CVC) is a federally recognized and the sole governing body of Chalkyitsik; and

WHEREAS, The CVC desires to develop a strategy to alleviate the high costs of energy of the CVC facilities; and

WHEREAS, The CVC has determined that the council facilities generate a high cost in electricity and heating oil; and

WHEREAS, The CVC requests Tanana Chiefs Conference to assist CVC staff in seeking funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 to upgrade the CVC facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CVC hereby certifies that it has received and considered citizen comments and hereby declares that the planned renovation/upgrade of village council facilities project which is essential to the health and safety of village residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chalkyitsik Village Council hereby respectfully requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assistance in seeking funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for renovation/upgrade of Village Council Facilities.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 19, 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Jerry Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Chalkyitsik Village Council

VISION

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes

MISSION

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.