



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

RESOLUTION 23-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION AND CITY OF SAINT PAUL FOR PLACING UP TO TWO VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS IN THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT PAUL ISLAND

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul (City) is charged with providing public safety services (e.g. law enforcement, emergency medical, dispatch, fire, and search and rescue) per City Code of Ordinance Title 8, Chapter 8.05 for the community of Saint Paul Island; and

WHEREAS, public safety is a shared responsibility between the State, local, and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, due to unanticipated circumstances, since May 5, 2023, the City has not been able to respond to law enforcement calls as it does not have any certified police officers on Island, which is a life and safety emergency.

WHEREAS, pursuant to CCO 8.10.010 the City Manager's office is tasked with coordinating emergency service functions of the City.

WHEREAS, the City has had a difficult time over the past decade recruiting and retaining quality police officers that are a good fit for our community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Resolution 22-19 on October 26, 2022 declaring a cultural, economic and social emergency due to the closure of the Bering Sea snow and king crab fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the City has lost significant tax revenue due to this fishery closure, reducing the City's ability to offer competitive compensation to officers; and

WHEREAS, our community prior to forming the City's Department of Public Safety had Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO); and

WHEREAS, the VPSO Program and the spirit of the program are a good fit for our community; and

WHEREAS, City will continue to fund a Community Service Officer position, emergency dispatch, EMS, fire and search and rescue services through the City's annual budget process, grants, donations, and other relevant funding sources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby approves the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) and the City of Saint Paul for placing a Village Public Safety Officer in the community of Saint Paul Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby:

- Directs the City Manager to sign the attached MOA and work with APIA to place a VPSO in our community as soon as possible; and
- Commits to providing housing, utilities, office space, and other supplies, equipment, etc. required for the VPSO position; and
- Agrees to move funding currently allocated to police officer positions to supporting up to two VPSO positions in our community.
- Directs the City Manager to prepare an amendment to the City Code of Ordinances for Council review that expressly addresses the use of VPSO services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL THIS 16th DAY OF MAY 2023 BY ___ IN FAVOR ___ OPPOSED AND ___ ABSTAIN.

ATTEST:

Jacob N. Mercurief, Mayor

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk