



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

RESOLUTION 24-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL REQUESTING THE ALEUT COMMUNITY OF SAINT PAUL ISLAND FUND ADDITIONAL PAY FOR VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AND A POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH THE REVENUES FROM ITS SALE OF ALCOHOL

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 fully able to respond to law enforcement calls as it does not have certified police officers on Island, which is a life and safety emergency; and,

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

WHEREAS, currently and historically, it is estimated that in over ninety percent (90%) of law enforcement related calls in our community, alcohol is a contributing factor; and,

WHEREAS, the Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island (ACSPI), is the federally recognized tribe for the tribal members of Saint Paul Island; and,

WHEREAS, the ACSPI sells and controls the sale of alcohol in the community of Saint Paul Island; and,

WHEREAS, one of the duties of the ACSPI per the constitution is to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the City has identified the need for additional law enforcement in the community to address alcohol related incidents and crimes; 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 fund police officers; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Resolution 23-14 on May 16, 2023, approving the 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,

WHEREAS, since May of 2023, APIA has had a difficult time recruiting and retaining quality VPSOs that are a good fit for our community, which has led to a lapse in law enforcement coverage for the community; and,

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2024, State of Alaska announced the 2024/2025 total allowable catch (TAC) or Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Bering Sea Snow Crab, and Tanner Crab; and,

WHEREAS, the TAC for these crab species is low and Trident Seafoods has announced they do not plan to open the processing plant on Saint Paul Island to process crab, which will impact the City finances for a third year in a row now; and,

WHEREAS, public safety is a shared responsibility and the ACSPI has potential funding available from the sales of alcohol to help fund public safety functions; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby requests the Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island fund annual bonuses up to \$20,000 for each VPSO each year to help retain VPSOs in our community and that the ACSPI provide annual funding to the City of Saint Paul to fund one (1) municipal police officer position in the amount up to \$200,000 per year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL THIS 30th DAY OF OCTOBER 2024 BY __ IN FAVOR __ OPPOSED AND __ ABSTAIN.

ATTEST:

Jacob N. Merculief, Mayor

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk