



March 2, 2020

Honorable Governor Dunleavy
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: FY 2021 State Community Jail Funding

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly respectfully requests increased funding in the State's budget to the Regional and Community Jail Program for FY 2021.

Petersburg has operated a community jail partially funded by this program for many years. In 2016/2017 the Petersburg Police Department was fully renovated and updated, including the Community Jail. A 2019 audit performed by Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Tupou received excellent reviews and the Petersburg Community Jail facility was noted as one of the safest in the state.

In 2015, Governor Walker and the legislature cut the Regional and Community Jail Program funding for FY 2016 by over 33%, which corresponded to a 49% reduction in annual compensation to the Petersburg Police Department (PPD) per contractual agreement with the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC). The reduced annual compensation of \$173,626 has remained constant for the last five years. The PPD's FY 2020 Community Jail operating budget is \$393,164. The DOC's annual contractual payment equals approximately 44% of the operating cost of the jail.

With the passage of SB 91 and HB 49, the Petersburg Police Department has taken on the added responsibility of pretrial monitoring (assisting DOC's Juneau Pretrial Services Division with performing and shipping urine analysis tests for pretrial detainees). In 2019, there were 23 defendants ordered to Pretrial Supervision through Juneau Pretrial, and the PPD assisted Juneau Pretrial with monitoring 42 times. The PPD's contractual compensation has not increased with this added responsibility.

The Petersburg Borough supports the DOC's mission to provide secure confinement, reformatory programs, and a process of supervised community reintegration to enhance the safety of our communities. The Petersburg Police Department is committed to ensuring compliance with the highest operating standards and we are requesting additional financial support to help offset the Borough's cost to operate Petersburg's Regional and Community Jail and continue the performance of pretrial services for the Department of Corrections.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Senator Stedman
Honorable Representative Kreiss-Tomkins
AML Executive Director Andreassen

Borough Administration
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