

Denise Liccioli

From: Howard T. Amos [pantungan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 10:44 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: VPSO Program testimony

My name is Howard T. Amos, I'm from Mekoryuk, Alaska.
I'm a former VPSO and manager as well. Today is August 24, 2007.

Village Public Safety Officer Program benefits each village that hires them. For a tribal or a City oriented communities without a VPSO struggle financially. Here are some problems:

1. A VPSO burns out because he/she is a human.
2. A VPSO supports his/her job by using own personal: Boat, 4-wheeler, vehicle, pay for their own gasoline/oil, put up troopers in their own homes.
3. VPSO's live with guns all their lives for personal/subsistence hunting. It is a crime to hire a police officer without any type of firearms protection. VPSO's lose their lives because the State of Alaska say its too risky, cost too much for insurance. Lawyers cannot say we can't handle firearms.
4. Cost of Living is astronomical in villages, everybody knows that, and yet VPSO's are like laborers. Compare their job with an Alaska State Trooper. People wonder why the turnover rate is so high, VPSO are paid pennies compared to an Alaska State Trooper.
5. Life Insurance, Retirement and other wonderful benefits that Troopers enjoy should benefit a VPSO as well.
6. VPSO's has cream of the crop, let them visit other VPSO who may be on verge of burnout to give encouragement and possibly help them do their job for several days.
6. Last but not least, We in villages are American citizens and deserve as much Police, Fire and Water safety protection as an average United States citizen.

Quyana,

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