

*City of Mountain Village*  
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Friday, October 05, 2007

Senator Donny Olson  
State Capital Rom 514  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Honorable Senator Olson:

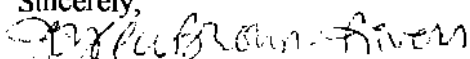
As City Manager of Mountain Village I am writing on behalf of City of Mountain Village regarding the specific problems that involve law enforcement for the community of Mountain Village.

First of all the Village Public Safety Officer and Village Police Officers are the first responders to all crisis calls ranging from domestic violence, rape cases, theft, many break-ins, assaults, driving under the influence, search & rescue, fire, and many death cases, most cases inspired by alcohol and drugs. With the size of our community it will never stop, it has been going on even before Mountain Village first got incorporated. Depending on the urgency of a call, in which most cases the strength level of call varies and where the limit of contacting the State Trooper takes over is always on a depended level, meaning troopers don't handle misdemeanor cases just the felony cases.

Secondly, it is very important to preserve and adequately fund the law enforcement to keep the crime rate down and ensure the welfare of our large community. Most crime cases are inspired by alcohol or illegal drugs which affect the most vulnerable-the welfare of babies, minors and elders. Without adequate funding it would be impossible to protect, serve, and control hostile environments. Remember, in all cases, Village Public Safety Officers and Village Police Officers are the first responders, which is why it is very important to preserve the funding at an adequate level.

Thirdly, all available resources to curtail the crime rate down in rural Alaska are critical such as drug/alcohol sniffing dogs that other communities are lucky to have, continued screening of airfreight, mail, suspects, and providing rewards for reporting importation would help tremendously. One life saved is worth everything to families. Lobbying the legislature on the state and federal level is critical also.

In conclusion I hope this information is most helpful in your task force meetings. Good luck in your decision-making and I hope the best decision turns out in what works best for the State of Alaska and our communities. Thank you very much for taking our testimony and attempting to see how we live and personally see what happens in our communities. It means very much to us. God Bless.

Sincerely,  
  
Joyce A. Brown-Rivers  
City Manager