

ALASKA STATE SENATE VPSO TASK FORCE

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CHAIR

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VPSO Task Force Making Progress

(ANCHORAGE) – The VPSO Task Force is nearing the end of its series of hearings in rural Alaska and continues to gather information on how to improve public safety in the state’s most remote communities. The Task Force is chaired by Sen. Donny Olson (D – Nome).

“We have heard the importance of the VPSO program in protecting rural Alaskans because of the deterioration in the program, a number of suggestions have come forth, including some to help with recruitment and retention. The Task Force is taking them under advisement and careful consideration now, and will generate recommendations to the senate next session. I and other members of the Task Force appreciate all of the people who took the time to come out, or who submitted written testimony on this important subject,” said Senator Olson.

A total of 92 people have testified in person or in writing at six different VPSO Task Force meetings in Nome, Savoonga, Gambell, Bethel, Emmonak and Mountain Village.

Sen. Hollis French (D – Anchorage), Sen. Fred Dyson (R – Eagle River), Commissioner of Public Safety Walt Monegan, Attorney General Talis Colberg, Loretta Bullard, President of Kawerak Inc., and Myron Naneng,

President of the Association of Village Council Presidents are also members of the Task Force.

One more hearing is scheduled for November 5th in Kodiak. That meeting is subject to change due to the upcoming legislative special session.

The VPSO Task Force will issue a report to the Alaska Senate outlining its findings and recommendations by February 15, 2008.

For more information, contact Senator Olson at (907) 269-0254.

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