

## Colleen Ingman

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**From:** Doris Bailey [dorie@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 9:05 AM  
**To:** Assembly@cityofsitka.com  
**Subject:** FY11 Budget  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; museum survey 2010.xls; FY11 City Request final.doc

May 17, 2010

Dear Mayor McAdams and Assembly Members:

This is a follow-up communication to our April 17<sup>th</sup> letter, related to the FY11 budget. During the appropriate budget work-session, we were not prepared to address you as earlier in the week I had been told that the public would not be allowed to testify. Therefore we would like to ask for the opportunity to formally address the Assembly regarding our FY11 allocation via an agenda item at the next regular assembly meeting May 25th.

At our May 13 board meeting, we reviewed our most current financial status and options. We found that we cannot cover the funding of a curator with the city's proposed allocation. With a \$70,000 city allocation, we would end the FY11 year with at least a loss of \$43,704 that would put us in peril of suspending operations. Clearly we could not hire a curator for FY11. We would be more than willing to share our financial reports with the assembly, or city staff.

Keeping our curator is the Board's highest priority in terms of the protection and care of Sitka's history. As our only professionally trained museum staff person, Ms. Kircher has done an outstanding job. With the implementation of our Rasmuson Organizational Improvement Grant, and the securing of the USFS White House for collections storage and curatorial services (10-year special use permit @ \$100/year), the Society and City of Sitka are finally at a stage that we can care for and value the artifacts, documents, and photos that are Sitka's Heritage and History. The support of the Assembly and City over the past two years has made this forward progress possible.

Without a curator, our Executive Director and current Curator do not believe we can meet the current requirements of our \$60,000 Rasmuson Grant, and this was confirmed by a Rasmuson program officer this week. Rasmuson wants to be informed as soon as we know the status of our curator position.

Even though Ashley Kircher is leaving us, we have a qualified candidate interested in assuming the position, continuing our core mission, and continuing our Rasmuson Grant and the priority objective- the CMAP (Collections Management Assessment Program), and fulfilling study findings/recommendations.

In addition, we are including as an attachment, the survey of museum funding amounts and associated municipal support. We may have an update soon from Scott Carrlee of the Alaska State Museum. This will allow you to compare our numbers to our sister cities and museums across the state.

Our FY 09 budget request was \$120,000, with the priority being the addition of a curator. We were allocated \$53,000 and asked by the Assembly to request the remainder of the funding later in the year. This request was made, and eventually granted, with the remaining \$67,000 disbursed late in the final quarter of the fiscal year. A hiring search was completed with the hiring of Curator Ashley Kircher who started June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2009.

For our FY10 functional operations, \$120,000 would technically be needed but because of the final quarter FY09 bump of \$67k, and obvious carryover, we reduced our FY 2010 request and we were allocated \$73,000. Therefore, we operated FY 2010 with city funding of \$120,000, although the C&B actually only allocated \$73,000.

On Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, board member Ernestine Massey and Executive Director Bob Medinger met with City Administrator Jim Dinley and Finance Director Dave Wolff. We made our FY 2011 request with the justification to keep existing positions. We were informed that the administration's proposed allocation would be based on a 5% cut of our reduced allocation for FY 10 of \$73,000. This would in fact constitute a 42.2% cut, from our functional city allocation for FY 10.

In order to keep a curator, we respectfully request that our allocation be restored to an operational staffing level of \$120,000 for FY 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Bailey".

Doris Bailey, President

Statistics from the Alaska State Museum Survey, Pratt Museum Statewide Survey, and Sitka Historical Society Compilations

<b>Alaska Museum Comparisons</b>								
	Pop.	Size Museum sq.ft.	City or Non-prof	Full FTE	Part FTE	Budget Total	City Contributor	Building Maint./ Oper
Sitka FY2010	8986	2161	N/P	2	0.75	\$157,261	\$120,000	City (late carryover included)
Juneau City Museum	30987	6000	City	2	2	\$400,000	\$270,000	City
Wasilla: Page	8471	10112	N/P	1	2	\$159,708	\$159,708	City
Kenai	7464	10000	N/P			\$300,000	\$80,000	City
Ketchikan Tongass & Totem	7685	5600	City	6	2	\$759,000	\$572,000	City
Kodiak Baranof	7000	4978	N/P	2	1.5	\$300,000	\$50,000	City Use to be fully funded by the city, now have endowment of \$1,300,000
Homer Pratt	5360	11300	N/P	9	5	\$669,921	\$80,000	Large Endowment
Unalaska	4347	9500	N/P	4		\$450,000	\$223,000	City
Valdez	4015	7500	City	3	1	\$325,000	\$204,000	City
Haines-Sheldon	2015	7000	N/P	4	1.5	\$185,000	\$169,488	City
Cordova	2288	2300	N/P	1	3	\$287,000	\$162,000	
Nome	3508	2264	City	2	1	\$210,000	\$200,000	City
Average (w/o Sitka)	7087	6959		3	2	\$337,136	\$226,688	(no endowment locations)
Sitka (repeat)	8986	2161	N/P	2	0.75	\$157,261	\$120,000	



# Sitka Historical Society and Museum

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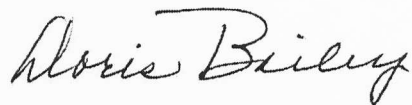
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