

Discussion/Direction on extending an invitation to President Barack Obama to visit Sitka in August



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We are excited that you will be visiting our great State on August 31 to address the State Department hosted climate-change conference of Arctic country foreign ministers in Anchorage. As Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka Alaska, I have the honor of extending an invitation to you to visit Sitka while you are in Alaska, a community you recognized in November 2014 at your White House summit on technology and education for our leadership in bringing technology to our schools.

Our island town of 9,000 residents is of historical and cultural importance to Alaska and the Nation. Once known as the Russian Capitol of Russian America, it was here in 1867 that Alaska was transferred to the United States. We will celebrate the 150th anniversary of this event in 2017.

A quarter of our population is Alaska Native. We know that your administration has put a high priority on increasing services and representation to American Indians and Alaska Natives. One of the cornerstones of our economy is our fishing industry. Most every household is touched by it. It is integral to our sustainability. To this end, there is increasing concerns and evidence that as our oceans warm and climate impacts manifest themselves that this way of life and economic life blood of our community may be under threat.

We know if your schedule permits that a visit to our wonderful community would be of tremendous value to you to see a unique place in America, and it would be an event of historical importance to Sitka Alaska.

Most Sincerely,

Mayor Mim McConnell