

P O L I C E

MEMO

DEPARTMENT

City and Borough of Sitka

To:	City Administrator Jim Dinley
From:	Chief Sheldon Schmitt
Subject:	Bear Attractive Nuisance Ordinance Revision
Date:	November 20, 2012

The Sitka General Code Chapter 9.24 entitled “Bear Attraction Nuisance” was reviewed by the Sitka Police Department, the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Troopers, and the bear work group. Two changes were recommended.

The first change recommended was to amend the amount of putrescible waste, to eliminate “More than one-half gallon” and change it to “Any amount” of any putrescible waste, including packaging or other surfaces to which the material is adhered;

The purpose of the change was to eliminate Police Officers having to measure the amount of waste.

The second of the issues is the mandated first warning in the ordinance. Officers will continue to give warnings if the situation calls for it. But the ordinance has been in place long enough; a mandatory warning is not needed at this point, and tends to limit the PD ability to enforce the ordinance.

The Bear Task Force believes changing these two items would allow us to more easily write citations and enforce the ordinance.

**Bear Task Force
Assembly Update
November 27, 2012**

Phil Mooney, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Andrew Thoms,- Sitka Conservation Society, Sheldon Schmitt -Sitka PD

Agenda:

1. Update on current pilot projects
 - Indian River
 - Current- BIHA has placed (5) 350 gallon dumpsters on Andrew Hope St. Each serves four households and replaces individual cans. Gravel pads were created for the larger cans, which have been secured to the ground.
 - Current- BIHA added one more 350 gallon can to serve Catherine Benson St and replace individual cans. BIHA will also retro fit all six 350 gallon cans and secure them to the ground.
 - Current- Public Safety Academy- replaced current dumpsters with (2) 350 gallon retro fitted cans, secured to the ground.



- Cascade Creek Road
 - Gradual replacement of old 95 gallon cans with newer retro-fitted cans starting from the top end of the road, working downhill. In process.
 - Placed several 350 Bear Resistance cans upon request from residents.

2. Future plans

- ID neighborhood(s) for communal (350 gallon) cans replacing individual cans
 - Mill St., Shotgun Alley, others

3. Bear Stats: 2012 has more calls than were anticipated but is not an abnormally high year for bear activity.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2006	0	0	2	2	11	7	36	45	3	1	1	0	97
2007	0	0	0	1	26	42	59	22	3	27	0	1	181
2008	0	0	0	5	14	6	7	13	1	0	1	1	48
2009	0	1	0	3	10	8	51	100	32	26	2	0	233
2010	0	1	1	16	40	20	42	34	1	1	2	2	160
2011	0	0	0	2	9	4	96	22	5	0	0	1	139
2012	0	3	0	2	4	24	50	13	5	51	18	NA	170

end