

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

May 6, 2016

Commandant (CG-092)
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE, Stop 7103
Washington, DC 205-7362

Dear Commandant,

On behalf of the City and Borough of Sitka, we respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Coast Guard to re-designate the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, as a "Coast Guard City". The community of Sitka is proud to be home to the men and women of five U.S. Coast Guard units including Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Coast Guard Cutter Maple, Aids to Navigation Team Sitka, Marine Safety Detachment Sitka, and Electronic Support Detachment Detail Sitka.

The City and Borough of Sitka's re-designation packet documents specific honors, accolades, partnerships, awards, and events supporting Sitka's Coast Guard community. Sitka's current Coast Guard City status gives our citizens another opportunity to show their appreciation and honor to our Coast Guard friends and neighbors for their great service.

The respect, admiration, gratitude, and support of Sitka's entire population for the heroic and dedicated performance of the Sitka Coast Guard personnel is likely unparalleled anywhere else, because the Coast Guard has saved so many lives in heroic rescues and different missions. The Sitka community is deeply indebted to the Coast Guard and is eager to cooperate in multiple efforts to honor the Coast Guard and their families as an integral and important part of the Sitka community, as well as one of the community's largest employers.

The Coast Guard families are welcomed into the schools, scouts, sports programs, community groups, commissions and boards, parades, festivals, and other community activities as integral members. The community greatly appreciates the considerable involvement and volunteer services by Coast Guard staff and families. The success of the community's efforts to embrace the Coast Guard personnel and their families is evidenced every day by the close personal and organizational integration among all members of the community, and an evaluation of how many Coast Guard have extended their tours of duty in Sitka and retired as permanent residents, speaks well of this bond.

August 2015 marked one of the most challenging months for Sitka, with an oil spill at Eagle Beach and multiple landslides throughout the Borough resulting in loss of life and property. The Coast Guard provided leadership and guidance through both horrific back to back events. Working side by side with neighbors and friends in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) showed us all that the bond between the community and the Coast Guard is stronger than ever.

Providing for today...preparing for tomorrow

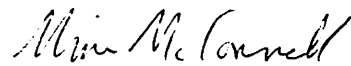
We can depend on and support one another through any catastrophic event.


The Coast Guard personnel and their families are an extremely important part of the fabric of our community, of critical importance to the success of Sitka- to our economy, to our culture and way of life, and to our safety and survival. Sitka is deeply honored to be a designated “Coast Guard City” and looks forward to continuing the designation.

We would be pleased to provide any further information or assistance regarding our re-designation of “Coast Guard City” status. We are honored to continue the respect and gratitude we feel and show our Coast Guard families.

Thank you for your consideration of our re-designation as “Coast Guard City”.

Sincerely,


Mim McConnell, Mayor


Mark Gorman, Municipal Administrator