

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA,  
SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE,  
AND THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Article I. PURPOSE**

Sitka Tribe of Alaska, (“Sitka Tribe”), Sitkans Against Family Violence (“SAFV”), and the City and Borough of Sitka Police Department (“Sitka Police Department”) (collectively, the “Parties”) enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) in order to provide close communication and collaboration among agencies working together to provide services and enhanced safety to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

This MOU is entered into with the mutual knowledge and concern regarding the development of strategies to reduce the barriers that prevent tribal citizens from using police and other services in response to sexual assault and domestic violence, to increase the safety of tribal citizens at risk of sexual assault and domestic violence, and to improve and increase the number of cases brought for prosecution. By providing a Sexual Assault Response Team specific to investigation, prosecution, and conviction of sexual assault; a Coordinated Community Response to investigate, prosecute, and convict domestic violence cases; and SAFV’s Victim Advocate Program, this MOU will serve to enhance current services and increase and strengthen reporting practices among tribal citizens. These programs will enhance current services to work towards ensuring all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault receive the support they need to navigate the judicial system and access services available through local agencies including Sitka Tribe’s Social Services and SAFV.

The Parties aim to continue to identify and appropriately respond to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by revitalizing the coordinated multi-disciplinary response (also called a coordinated community response team); providing transitional housing to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; centralizing and coordinating police investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases in a culturally competent manner; and providing a safety net for victims with the Victim Services Advocate. One of the main objectives is to provide close communication and collaboration with other agencies working together to provide better access to services and enhanced safety to victims.

The Parties recognize that Sitka Tribe, a federally-recognized Indian Tribe, enters this MOU through the exercise of its sovereign rights and powers in order to preserve the integrity of tribal society and improve the lives of individual tribal members under its authority, and to provide for the protection and integrity of individuals and families within its jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the Parties recognize that SAFV has provided and will continue to provide services that significantly increase the safety and well being of tribal citizens who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The Parties, however, recognize that better training for service providers and development and implementation of sexual assault and domestic violence specific protocols are all

necessary to address the needs of persons, in particular Alaska Natives and American Indians, who are victims of the crime of sexual assault or domestic violence. It is further understood that SAFV is key in providing that education and training. The parties further recognize that collaboration with SAFV to provide and strengthen legal advocacy services for victims of sexual assault, and domestic violence, including coordination with law enforcement, the State of Alaska Court system, and immigration services will benefit tribal citizens who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Furthermore, the Parties recognize that the Sitka Police Department has provided and will continue to provide services that significantly increase the safety and well-being of tribal citizens who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The Parties, however, recognize that better coordination between all providers of services to sexual assault and domestic violence victims will result in better and more successful prosecutions of these offenders. Stronger and more consistent enforcement of Alaska's sexual assault and domestic violence laws will encourage more victims of sexual assault and domestic violence to seek assistance from Sitka Tribe, Sitka Police Department, and SAFV.

## **Article II. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

### **A. Responsibilities of Sitka Tribe**

Sitka Tribe will:

1. Commit the Transitional Housing Program Manager to staff the Sexual Assault Response Team Committee and all duties associated with the necessary planning phase of the project;
2. Commit the Transitional Housing Program Manager to convene a Coordinated Community Response Team and all related duties;
3. Provide funds available through the CTAS Grant to Sitka Tribe from the Department of Justice, Award No. 2017-TW-AX-0070 ("Grant");
4. Work with all agencies to assure grant reporting requirements are properly met;
5. Strengthen the relationship of Sitka Tribe, SAFV and the Sitka Police Department to combat domestic violence and sexual assault;
6. Commit the Transitional Housing Program Manager to coordinate all training for police officers;
7. Provide funding to SAFV for a Victim Services Advocate;
8. Provide funding to Sitka Police Department for staff persons designated to and performing duties to the project;
9. Meet with project partners on a monthly basis.

### **B. Responsibilities of the Sitka Police Department**

The Sitka Police Department will:

1. Guide and support victims to access the necessary services provided by local agencies, including Sitka Tribe's Social Services-Transitional Housing Program and SAFV.
2. Designate one or more staff persons to increase investigation and prosecution of crimes involving domestic violence and sexual assault as long as funds for those staff persons are provided under the Grant or other sources of funds available to the Parties;
3. Designate at least one staff person to participate as an active member on the Sexual Assault Response Team and the Transitional Housing Program advisory committee as long as sufficient funding is available under the Grant or other sources of funds;
4. Make any statistics collected under the Grant available to the Transitional Housing Program Manager in a timely manner;
5. Strengthen the relationship of Sitka Tribe, SAFV and the Sitka Police Department to combat sexual assault and domestic violence in our community.

C. Responsibilities of SAFV

SAFV will:

1. Employ a Victim Service Advocate;
2. Designate at least one staff person to participate as an active member of the Sexual Assault Response Team, Collaborative Coordinated Response Team, and the Transitional Housing Program advisory committee;
3. Designate appropriate staff to receive SART training;
4. Guide and support victims to access the necessary services provided by local agencies, including Sitka Tribe's Social Services-Transitional Housing Program, SAFV, and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium.
5. Make any statistics collected under this grant available to the Transitional Housing Program Manager in a timely manner;
6. Strengthen the relationship of Sitka Tribe, SAFV and the Sitka Police Department to combat sexual assault and domestic violence in our community;

**Article III. Terms of MOU**

A. Duration of MOU

The duration of this MOU is for the period of time beginning on the latest dated signature below until September 30, 2020.

B. Revision of MOU

This MOU may be revised as necessary with mutual consent of the Parties by issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by the proper representative of each Party.

C. Termination of MOU

Any Party may terminate this MOU with thirty days written notice to the other signature Parties. Any termination of funding for activities specified in this MOU shall be subject to the terms of any agreement or contract between the Parties regarding Grant funds.

**Article IV. Effective Date**

In witness whereof, Sitka Tribe, the Sitka Police Department, and SAFV have executed this agreement as of the last written date below.

For Sitka Tribe of Alaska

For the Sitka Police Department

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KathyHope Erickson  
Tribal Chairman

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Jeff Ankerfelt  
Chief

For Sitkans Against Family Violence

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Michelle Mahoney  
Executive Director