



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

---

February 26, 2020

Nils Andreassen, Executive Director  
Alaska Municipal League  
One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: State Funding for Community Jails

Mr. ~~Andreassen~~: *Nils*

Pursuant to your email of February 15, 2020 I am sending information regarding Sitka's Community Jail.

The Sitka Community Jail is an integral piece to the overall public safety of Sitka. Since 1960, the City Assembly approved an annual jail services contract with the State of Alaska to incarcerate persons held for violation of State law. The City of Sitka respectfully requests Legislative action.

The Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) and the City of Sitka entered into a new five-year contract (DOC Contract 2091911) to provide short-term Regional and Community Jail services on July 25, 2019. The base contract amount is \$391,194.00. There are no capital improvement projects projected for the next several years. Revenues received under this contract do not cover but do offset the City's cost to operate the jail.

Because Sitka is a ten (10) day, short term facility, we rely heavily on the Troopers to transport prisoners. Often times Troopers do not have personnel to send to Sitka for transport, in a timely manner, or weather becomes an issue. The extra days of incarceration directly equate to time and money that Sitka supplements to the program.

The City of Sitka supports the DOC's mission to provide secure confinement, reformative programs, and a process of supervised community reintegration to enhance the safety of our communities. The Sitka Police Department is committed to ensuring compliance with the highest operating standards and we are requesting additional financial support to continue the performance of pretrial services.

The City seeks Legislative support to have the DOC provide a sufficient level of annual funding to adequately provide services and maintenance of the Sitka Community Jail, which will allow the facility to function at an acceptable level and meet DOC's operating standards.

If you need additional information, please contact Police Chief Robert Baty at (907)747-3245.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Bevan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hugh Bevan  
Interim Municipal Administrator

cc: John Leach, Municipal Administrator  
Robert Baty, Chief of Police