

December 17, 2019

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE

Final Report Briefing To The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly

**George Hays
Task Force Chairman**

POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	POSITION IN COMMUNITY
George Hays, Chairman MAY VOTE ONLY IN A TIE VOTE	MSB, Deputy Borough Manager
1. Dan Mayfield	MSB, Assembly Member for District 4
2. Jim Sykes	MSB, Former Assembly Member for District 1
3. Lance Ketterling	Former Chief of Police, City of Palmer
4. Bert Cottle	Mayor, City of Wasilla
5. Earl Houser	Superintendent, Goose Creek Correctional Center
6. Robert Hall	Mat-Su Business Owner, Gorilla Fireworks
7. Jeff Laughlin	Retired Major, Alaska State Troopers
8. Mike Holman	Vice President, Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police Inc.
9. Patti Fisher	President, Meadow Lakes Community Council

AUTHORITY, PURPOSE AND GOAL

Authority and Purpose: MSB Ordinance 19-030: “The Police Powers Task Force will investigate and consider steps to develop from one to three prioritized, fiscally reasonable, and possible proposals for the purpose of sending them to the Assembly for consideration. The Assembly will consider whether to present one or more of these proposals to the voters on the next regular ballot for the purposes of adding specific police powers to the Borough’s responsibilities.”

WHY CREATE A POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE?

BACKGROUND:

- **Jun 2018 - Three Citizen Working Group Meetings**
 - **Top three Crime Problems: Drugs, Thefts, & Recidivism**
 - **Top three Recommendations:**
 - **Repeal SB 91/Tougher Sentences (Expand Courts & Corrections)**
 - **More Police: Better Response/Time to Investigate Crimes**
 - **More Services for Troubled People (Drugs & Mental Health)**

WHY CREATE A POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE?

BACKGROUND: (continued)

- **Aug-Sep 2018: Public Survey to 602 Citizens**
 - **Crime is Very Serious- 69%**
 - **Crime is Very Serious or Somewhat Serious - 96%**
 - **41% HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF CRIME!**
 - **Look into Getting Police Powers - 53% Yes, 31% No, 26% Don't Know**
 - **Pay for Police with Sales Tax – 53%**

WHY CREATE A POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE?

BACKGROUND: (continued)

- Oct 2018: Citizens Advisory Vote to Create Task Force
 - 60% - YES, Look Into Getting Police Powers
- Mar-Dec 2019: MSB Police Powers Task Force
 - MSB Assembly Created the Task Force Mar 5, 2019
 - 19 Meetings

WHY CREATE A POLICE POWERS TASK FORCE?

Troopers to Population Ratio in Mat-Su Borough

- **Mat-Su Population Increase: 59,322 in 2000 to 106,383 in 2019 (79.7%)**
- **State Troopers in Mat-Su: 50 officers in 2004 to 58 in 2018 (16%)**
- **Increase in State Troopers Lagged Behind Population Growth by 66.7%**
 - **They're Doing All they can, but are Understaffed**
- **2018 University of Alaska Justice Center study, recommends increase of 26 Officers to meet Mat-Su Borough needs**
 - **Funding Problems at State Level May Prevent Any Increases**

TASK FORCE DISCUSSIONS

- **WHY Are we Considering Police Options?**
 - **People Don't Feel Safe in their Homes and in the Borough**
 - **People Don't Feel Police Response is Adequate**
 - **People Want the Criminal Activity Stopped/Reduced**
 - **People Would like Some Borough Authority in Fighting Crime**

Crime Statistics in the Mat-Su Borough

Statistics from Alaska State Troopers show an overall 12.9% increase in crimes during the 18 year period from the year 2000 to 2018.

Incidents in the Mat-Su Borough

▪ Year	Assaults	Burglary	Theft-Auto	Theft-Larceny	Total
▪ 2000	555	396	119	585	1,655
▪ 2018	477	384	165	842	1,868

POLICE POWERS OPTIONS BEING PRESENTED

PRIORITY #1: Create a Dedicated Drug and Property Crimes

Police Task Force in the Non-area-wide Part of the Borough

PRIORITY #2: Create a Police Service Area in the Core-Area (Plus)

Part of the Borough

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

1. Dedicated Drug and Property Crimes Police Task Force

- **20 Officers – Approximate cost \$7 Million (Without facility)**
 - **Option a: Contract to WPD, PPD, and AST**
 - **Option b: If no contract, Create Borough Police Task Force**
- **Focus on Property Crimes and Drug Crimes (not exclusive)**
- **Leave Other Crimes Primarily to AST, WPD, and PPD**
- **Funding Sources: Sales Tax, Property Tax Increase**

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

- Priority #1 (Continued): Create a Dedicated Drug and Property Crimes Police Task Force
- Estimated Cost: 1st year \$7.1M, then \$5.5M (without facility)
- **Property Tax Increase Estimates - With Houston:**
 - Cost per \$100,000 of Property Value: 1st Year \$86.00, then \$68.00
- **Property Tax Increase Estimates - Without Houston:**
 - Cost per \$100,000 of Property Value: 1st Year \$90.00, then \$71.00

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

Priority #2: Create a Police Service Area (PSA) – Core-Area (Plus)

- **55 Officers**
- **Includes Houston, but Not Wasilla or Palmer**
 - **Option a: Contract to Wasilla PD or Palmer PD**
 - **Option b: Separate PSA Reporting to MSB**
- **Troopers would cover area outside the PSA**
- **Funding Sources: Sales Tax or Property Tax Increase**

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

- Priority #2 (Continued): Create a Police Service Area
- Estimated Cost: 1st year \$18.1M, then \$14.1 (without facility)
- Property Tax Increase Estimates - With Houston:
 - Cost per \$100,000 of Property Value: 1st Year \$314, then \$245
- Property Tax Increase Estimates - Without Houston:
 - Cost per \$100,000 of Property Value: 1st Year \$322, then \$251

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

❖ Possible Action:

- ❖ Non-Police Powers Actions to Enhance Safety

❖ Information:

- ❖ A Baseline Document for a Fully-Staffed Borough Police Department

Non-Police Powers Actions to Enhance Safety

- **Various options: Approximate cost \$2.3 Million**
- **Can be Done Whether Police Powers are Voted in or Not**
- **Additional Code Compliance and Legal Injunction Actions**
- **Continue City Planning and Community Assistance Grants**
- **Fund for Community Cleanup**
- **Create 5-Year Plan to Address Drugs and Homelessness**
- **Funding Sources: Sales Tax, Property Tax Increase**

INFORMATION ON A BASELINE FOR THE POLICE FORCE THAT IS “NEEDED” IN THE MAT-SU BOROUGH

Fully-Staffed Borough Police Department

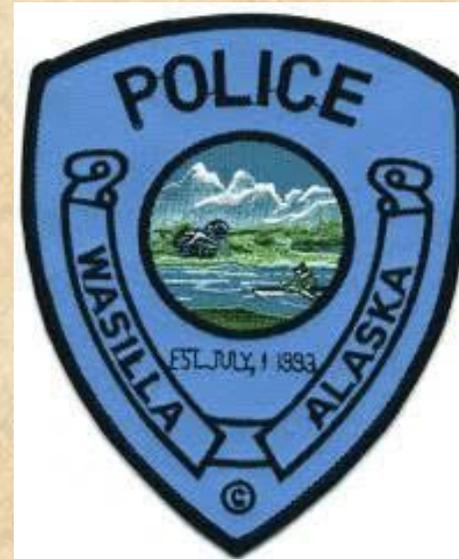
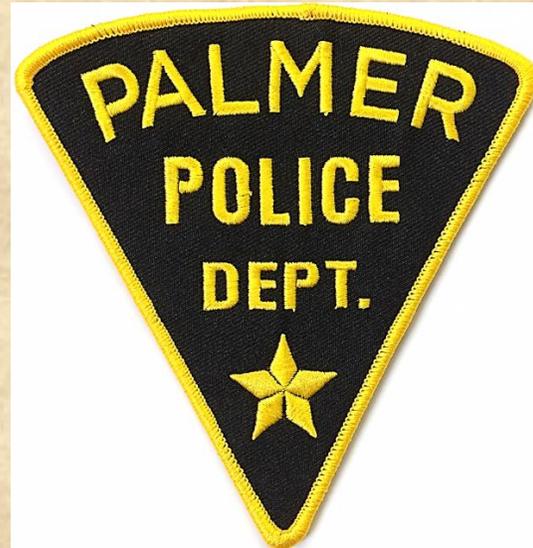
- **110 Officers – Approximate Cost \$37 Million (without facility)**
- **Non-Areawide, Includes Houston, but not Wasilla or Palmer**
- **Police Chief/Borough Director**
- **Enforce Federal/State Laws Only, Not Borough Code--Eliminates the Need to Have Prosecution and Defense Attorneys**
- **Funding Sources: Sales Tax, Property Tax Increase**

The Police Powers Task Force Refers for Assembly Consideration the Following Two Prioritized Options:

PRIORITY #1: Create a Dedicated Drug and Property Crimes Police Task Force in the Non-area-wide Part of the Borough

PRIORITY #2: Create a Police Service Area in the Core-Area (Plus) Part of the Borough

QUESTIONS?



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