

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 20-051**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA TO STOP ANY PLAN TO RELOCATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS TO ANCHORAGE.

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Department of Public Safety (DPS) announced that it intends to consolidate 9-1-1 services and emergency law enforcement dispatching from several local communities in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska, to one new emergency communication center located in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Wasilla 9-1-1 Dispatch Center operates in an effective, efficient, and life-saving manner, providing dispatch services for multiple agencies including the city of Wasilla, the Borough, and the Alaska State Troopers; and

WHEREAS, numerous subject matter experts from around the state, with experience in law enforcement and emergency communications, have raised concerns about the project; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2020, several mayors and the heads of emergency services departments sent a letter to Governor Dunleavy identifying specific concerns with regard to safety, technology, location/addressing issues, negative fiscal impact locally and to the State, and staffing; and

WHEREAS, according to the February 24, 2020 letter, DPS Commissioner Price informed the legislature that of the

\$3.5 million allocated to this project, approximately 60 percent has been expended and just over half of a design has been accomplished; and

WHEREAS, that means the project has approximately \$1.4 million remaining to: finish the design, construct or refurbish a building for the project, obtain the software and hardware necessary to operate the center, and integrate the center with all municipalities in southcentral and southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a mere retrofit of an existing building would cost several hundred thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, DPS knows the initial software alone would cost \$1 million to \$1.4 million because it is currently soliciting such software for its Fairbanks 9-1-1 call taking system (See RFP 2020-1200-4534 issued April 20, 2020); and,

WHEREAS, additional software costs could cause the total budget to increase exponentially; and,

WHEREAS, the hoped-for efficiencies and savings anticipated from the consolidation of dispatch services represent plain cost-shifting to local municipalities through increased infrastructure costs without regard to the local ability to bear the burden, and simultaneously pose an unnecessary risk to public safety and loss of local control over local affairs; and

WHEREAS, given the numerous unresolved concerns and their impact on local public safety, AST's plan to consolidate 9-1-1

services and emergency law enforcement dispatching in Anchorage is not in the best interest of the residents of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly urges the Governor of the state of Alaska to cancel the planned relocation of the emergency communications center to Anchorage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that before considering any consolidation or relocation of dispatch centers in the future, the Alaska State Department of Public Safety must conduct a cooperative and transparent process with input from all municipalities, emergency response agencies, and public stakeholders to avoid poor decision making, risk to safety, and waste of public money.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 19 day of May, 2020.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Leonard, Mayfield, Sumner, and Boeve