

## Lonnie McKechnie

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**From:** Vern Halter <vhalter@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 10:26 AM  
**To:** Lonnie McKechnie; Nicholas Spiropoulos  
**Cc:** George Hays  
**Subject:** Veto- Resolution 20-096-

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I hereby veto Resolution 20-096 for the sole reason of Assemblyman Sumner's amendment to Resolution 20-096-State Legislative Priorities. This amendment was to add an Elected Sheriff position to

Class 2 Borough power under Title 29. I disagree with this amendment. It is premature and usurps the December 19, 2019 "Police Powers Task Force" report.

The title page of this report says

"Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ordinance N0. 19-030, March 5, 2019:

The Police Powers Task Force will investigate and consider steps to develop from one to three prioritized, fiscally responsible, 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."

The Covid 19 crisis altered the ability of the Assembly in the short term to follow its own ordinance 19-030 but this certainly does not mean it should be usurped by an unwise amendment that clearly negates or changes the fundamental purpose of the Police Powers Task Force mission. No where in this report is there a recommendation for changing Title 29 to add an elected Sheriff position to the Borough or other similarly situated Borough's.

The Task Force met regularly from March through December of 2019. It synthesized information from

the Citizen Working Group meetings that were held though out the Borough. The fundamental issue has not changed-

do the citizens of the Mat Su Borough want to add police powers. This is laid out in the Executive Summary pages 5 through 9 of the report.

The Sumner amendment also fails to account for costs and options that are fully explored in the 2019 Task Force report. Rather than lobby the State to change Title 29, this Assembly should follow its own mandate laid out in Ordinance 19-030. Because of Covid 19 we have not had the opportunity to follow through yet but my fervent hope is that Assembly do this.