

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-37

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL COMMENDING NORMAN
“KOOLIE” HEYANO UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF**

WHEREAS, Norman “Koolie” Heyano joined the Dillingham Volunteer Fire Department in 1971 and has devoted 55 years of volunteer service to protecting the lives, property, and well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, Koolie became Assistant Chief in 1982, earned his Emergency Trauma Technician certification in 1984, and was elected Fire Chief in 2001, serving for 25 years in that leadership role; and

WHEREAS, Koolie has responded to more than 500 fire calls and made more than 160 ambulance runs during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving freely of his time and skills when his neighbors needed help; and

WHEREAS, Koolie has mentored and encouraged generations of firefighters and first responders, supporting their accomplishments and helping make the firehouse a second home and a family of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the department established the “Koolie Award” in his honor to recognize willingness to serve, longevity of service, community mindedness, integrity, tenacity, and humility, qualities that reflect his example; and

WHEREAS, Koolie’s wife, Bernice, and his family have supported his many years of volunteer service and share in the community’s gratitude; and

WHEREAS, Koolie’s retirement as Volunteer Fire Chief provides an opportunity to honor his leadership, compassion, and lasting contributions to Dillingham;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL:

1. The City Council commends Norman “Koolie” Heyano upon his retirement as Volunteer Fire Chief and expresses its heartfelt appreciation for his 55 years of volunteer service and 25 years of leadership as Fire Chief.
2. The City Council recognizes the lasting example Koolie has set for those who follow in his footsteps, extends its gratitude to Bernice and his family, and offers its warmest wishes for his retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on October 22, 2026

Alice Ruby, Mayor

ATTEST:

[SEAL]

Abigail Flynn, City Clerk