


Mayor
Alice Ruby

City Manager
Robert Mawson



Dillingham City Council
Kim Johnson
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Aksel Buholm
Curt Armstrong
Kaleb Westfall
Perry Abrams

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 17, 2023
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Lori Goodell, Acting City Manager 
Subject: Leadership for Public Safety

The Dillingham Department of Public Safety has been without a permanent Chief of Police since May of 2022. Sergeant Maines has been working as the Acting Chief since the end of April 2022. Due to extenuating circumstances experienced in the City Manager's office this temporary solution has gone on longer than expected and has resulted in depleted coverage, and support for Patrol Officers. This is not an ideal situation as it places continued expectations on Officer Maines and leaves the department without staff devoted to the duties filled by the Sergeant.

The City currently has recruitment ongoing for the Chief of Police. The reality of finding the right person for this key position can take time. The need for leadership and support continues to be a reoccurring theme in the department.

Furthermore, with the approaching fishing season there is an increased demand for police presence. Unfortunately, we continue to lose Patrol Officers placing additional stress on the remaining staff.

A qualified candidate has been located who is interested in an interim position to assist the City of Dillingham Department of Public Safety. This individual has demonstrated time and knowledge as a Chief of Police, including experience in the State of Alaska.

This individual is recommended by Greg Russell of Russell Consulting. I recommend inviting Mr. Hawkins for a site visit. If the visit proves to be beneficial, I'd like to offer the Interim Chief of Police position on a month-by-month basis at a rate of \$10,000 per month, with housing and vehicle provided. This will free up Officer Maines for the duties he is employed for and provide increased support for the Patrol Officers.