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MEMORANDUM

Date: 12-29-2020
To: acting-City Manager Cynthia Rogers
From: Chief Daniel Pasquariello
Subject: **Public Safety report January 2021**
Calendar year 2020

Highlights from each division for calendar year 2020
Total activity statistics for each division are listed on the accompanying spreadsheet.

Patrol

- We developed a plan for recruiting police officers, locally, statewide, and nationally. Now our patrol division fully-staffed.
- We have a new patrol sergeant and the division is more efficient and productive.
- During the fishing season officers worked extra shifts on their days off to meet arriving passengers at the airport and to enforce emergency corona virus ordinances. Officers wrote dozens of citations for violations of emergency ordinances. Numerous individuals contested the citations in court, which kept the officers busy with court appearances into late September.
- The patrol officers have been maintaining personal safety during the COVID pandemic to avoid becoming infected with the virus which would cause disruption to police staffing levels. Officers wear appropriate PPE, medical grade KN95 masks and rubber gloves when on patrol and when responding to calls.
- During this pandemic officers have been given citations to persons, or requesting summons for them, instead of arresting them. We have done this to decrease the amount of persons being taken into our jail to slow the spread of COVID.

- The city manager and police chief negotiated a contract in the amount of \$20,000 a year from the Alaska DOT. The contract is to provide emergency TSA response at the airport. We performed this task without compensation for decades, for the seasonal jet service. Year-round, daily jet service greatly increases the department's obligation so we felt compensation was needed for us to provide this State function.
- We just recently obtained a JAG grant from the Alaska State Troopers for \$23,000. This grant is for airfare/hotel/rental car/per diem to send a police officer to the Anchorage airport one week out of every month, beginning in January and ending in September. This officer will work with the Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team (AAIT) headed by the Alaska State Troopers. The DPD officer will assist in contacting persons at the Anchorage airport to stop the flow of drugs into Dillingham and other areas of the State. The officer will provide a Dillingham presence at the Anchorage airport and will gain valuable drug investigation experience that can be utilized here in Dillingham the other three weeks of every month.
- Patrol employees wear masks inside of the building to help prevent the potential spread of the COVID virus.

Dispatch

- The dispatch division is fully-staffed despite some employee turnover throughout the year.
- We began COVID screening of calls. A person calling in for police or ambulance service is asked a series of questions (*similar to the ones asked at the hospital/airport*) to determine any risk of COVID infection at the residence. This information is valuable, especially to the few responding EMTs left in the city.
- During the height of the commercial fishing season the dispatch division took over the issuing of the of the travel "permits" from the EOC. Over 3500 travel permits were processed. The dispatchers worked extra hours (*along with some city hall employees*) to perform this extremely stressful and time consuming task.
- We obtained a new telephone system to replace our aged system which frequently crashed on us leaving us with only 911 service and no business lines. We are anxiously looking forward to the new radios which the council has approved using CARES act funding.
- Dispatch employees wear masks inside of the building to help prevent the potential spread of the COVID virus.

Corrections

- The corrections officers have been maintaining personal safety during the COVID pandemic to avoid becoming infected with the virus which would cause disruption to jail staffing levels. Corrections officers wear appropriate PPE, medical grade masks and rubber gloves when interacting with inmates in the jail.
- We have instituted COVID screening of inmates upon their arrival at the jail. We take the inmates temperature and ask them the standard series of questions. Inmates are provided with masks and are required to wear them in the jail. If an inmate has been outside of the census area we quarantine them in our facility as best we can per space availability. A few times we have had to transport inmates to the hospital due to their being close contacts of COVID positive persons. We have housed hundreds of persons in our jail this year, from Dillingham and other census area communities and have not had a positive COVID case.
- We discontinued electronic monitoring (*ankle monitors*) of presentenced inmates. This task was above and beyond our State jail contract. It was a voluntary supplemental task that we took on for additional compensation. Technical and logistical issues with the monitors caused undue time consuming problems. The compensation was not worth the staff time involved so we notified DOC and the court and no longer wished to provide electronic monitoring.
- We negotiated a contract in the amount of \$26,000 a year from the Alaska State Troopers. The contract is to provide telephonic arraignments of inmates. Inmates were transported to court by AST to appear before the judge. AST and the court wished to have inmates arraigned via video conference/telephonically to alleviate transport and contact, especially during the COVID pandemic. We agreed to perform this State function for the above mentioned compensation, as well as having the State provide us with the video conferencing equipment.
- For years we had allowed homeless persons to sleep in our lobby during the cold weather months for their safety. This spring we began locking our station lobby up at night due to the COVID pandemic. There are no other homeless shelter services in Dillingham. This problem was made public after a death this winter. A committee consisting of various local governments, religious organizations, quasi-governmental organizations, and local businesses has been started and several meetings have been held to address this problem.
- Corrections employees wear masks inside of the building to help prevent the potential spread of the COVID virus.

ACO

- The animal shelter was closed during the fishing season. Capstone clinic was housed in the shelter building to perform COVID testing. The ACO moved into the police station and only used the outside dog kennels at the shelter.
- The ACO been meeting the incoming jets at the airport to check passengers for travel forms. The new form does not have to be approved so if a passenger has not filled out a form we give them a form to fill out so that they can be in compliance with the emergency ordinance. The ACO has been doing this with the assistance of Denali Universal Service health and safety officers. When the DUS contract expires at the end of the year the ACO will still be able to perform this function. Police officers will assist him if necessary, although this non-enforcement greet and education task can be performed with the assistance of any city employee from any department.
- There were a record number of dog bite cases this year. The city's new dog bite ordinance worked well and made the process understandable for all parties involved.
- There were no spay/neuter clinics this year due the COVID pandemic. The ACO was able to send out 37 puppies to animal rescue groups in Anchorage to help keep the Dillingham animal population down.
- The animal control officer wears a mask on-duty and while inside of the building to help prevent the potential spread of the COVID virus.

DMV

- When the COVID pandemic began the DMV was shut down for several weeks to prevent customer congestion in our lobby. As we gained an understanding of safety measures we reopened the DMV by appointment only. Doing this avoided congregation of customers in the lobby. Customers have greatly appreciated this new procedure as it eliminated waiting around for their turn and allowed them to complete their transaction in a minimal amount of time.
- We did not give road tests for several months so that the DMV agent did not have to be in a confined space (*vehicle*) with a customer. We began to give road tests again for a while but have since stopped again due to the increased severity of the COVID pandemic.
- During the shutdown of the DMV early in the pandemic the DMV agent was instrumental in helping the department obtain PPE and other supplies necessary for the departments' operation and safety during the pandemic.

- Before reopening the DMV a Plexiglas barrier was installed on the counter. The DMV agent wears a mask on-duty and while inside of the building to help prevent the potential spread of the COVID virus.



**Happy holidays from brothers BUBBA and VINNY.
The police department's emotional support dogs.**