

Mayor
Alice Ruby

City Manager
Jack Savo Jr.



Dillingham City Council
Triston Chaney
Jean Barrett
Steven Carriere
Curt Armstrong
Kaleb Westfall
Kevin McCambly

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Abigail Flynn, City Clerk's Department
Through: Jack Savo Jr, City Manager
Date: April 21, 2026
Re: Resolution 2026-15, Adopting Memorandum of Agreement for the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)

SUMMARY:

Staff is requesting Council approval of Resolution No. 2026-15 adopting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), the City of Dillingham, and the Curyung Tribal Council for participation in the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program.

The MOA establishes a cooperative framework for providing public safety services within the community through the VPSO Program. Council action is required to adopt the resolution and authorize execution of the agreement.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

- None. This is a new agreement establishing formal participation in the VPSO Program under the current MOA.

BACKGROUND:

The VPSO Program is administered by the Bristol Bay Native Association in coordination with the Alaska Department of Public Safety and Alaska State Troopers. The program provides rural communities with essential public safety services, including law enforcement support, emergency response, fire protection, and search and rescue.

The proposed MOA covers the program period of May 7, 2026 through June 30, 2029 and outlines the shared responsibilities of BBNA, the City of Dillingham, and the Curyung Tribal Council in supporting VPSO services within the community.

DISCUSSION: The MOA establishes the following key provisions:

- **Program Administration:** BBNA serves as the employer and program administrator for VPSO personnel, including hiring, training coordination, and benefits administration.

- **Public Safety Role:** VPSOs provide a range of services including law enforcement support, emergency medical response, fire protection, and search and rescue.
- **City Responsibilities:** The City may provide in-kind support.
- **Oversight and Coordination:** The City and Tribal Council will coordinate with BBNA and Alaska State Troopers to oversee VPSO activities, establish community priorities, and evaluate program effectiveness.
- **Shared Responsibilities:** All parties collaborate on program reporting and ensuring adequate public safety services are maintained.

The agreement formalizes roles and expectations among all parties and ensures continued availability of VPSO services in Dillingham.

ALTERNATIVES:

- Approve Resolution No. 2026-15 and authorize execution of the MOA.
- Amend the resolution or request modifications to the MOA.
- Decline to approve the agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The VPSO Program is primarily funded through State and BBNA-administered grants; however, the City is responsible for providing in-kind support necessary to sustain the position. These costs may include housing, vehicle acquisition and maintenance, fuel, insurance, office space, utilities, and administrative support.

While no direct salary costs are incurred by the City, these ongoing operational commitments are required to maintain program eligibility and ensure continued VPSO services within the community.

LEGAL:

The Memorandum of Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel. No legal concerns were identified, and there is no reason not to enter into this agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Memorandum of Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel. No legal concerns were identified, and there is no reason not to enter into this agreement.

PROPOSED MOTION:

“I move to adopt Resolution No. 2026-15 adopting the Memorandum of Agreement between the Bristol Bay Native Association, the City of Dillingham, and the Curyung Tribal Council for participation in the Village Public Safety Officer Program, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.”

ATTACHMENTS:

- Memorandum of Agreement – VPSO Program
- Resolution 2026-15