



City and Borough of Juneau
City & Borough Manager's Office
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TO: Deputy Mayor Smith and Borough Assembly
DATE: October 31, 2024
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
RE: Memorandums of Agreement with Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Assembly goal 4. B is to “Explore government to government relations with tribes, working on projects meant to grow effective communication, trust and partnerships. Create an Assembly liaison to tribal meetings.”

Progress has been made towards building trust and relationships with the joint response to the Mendenhall Flooding in August 2024 and continued partnership on mitigation measures. Building off the letter of intent that was signed in 2017 by Mayor Ken Kelsh and President Peterson, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), CBJ leadership have been looking at areas with a shared mission that we can formalize that partnership. Natural fits are public safety and solid waste.

Public Safety

Tlingit & Haida has a robust Public Safety department with headquarters and a Tribal Emergency Operations Center in Lemon Creek. They have employees trained and practiced in emergency management and equipment to aid in response including search and rescue. They also maintain a Village Public Safety Officer program that employes individuals residing in the villages trained in fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention, and basic law enforcement. Tlingit & Haida were and continue to be key partners in flood response and mitigation. It makes sense to pool our resources and talents on behalf of Juneau residents. The Memorandum of Agreement commits to an annual meeting to discuss our shared interests and where we can partner, joint trainings when appropriate (and at a minimum annually) and information sharing. Both parties agree to cover their own costs and commit to open and free communication.

Solid Waste

CBJ is in the planning stages of several exciting solid waste projects in Juneau, ranging from waste characterization studies to studies of the future solid waste options for the community, as well as the construction of a municipal composting site. We are very interested in exploring how CBJ and Tlingit & Haida could potentially partner in these efforts. Not only do we share the common goal of developing sustainable waste management practices for our communities, but we also stand to benefit from pooling our collective resources in these efforts. By combining our resources and expertise, we can optimize solid waste diversion practices in Juneau, and potentially the region, thereby ensuring the sustainability of our programs and minimizing costs for our communities.

In addition, Tlingit & Haida has received several federal grants for composting and recycling in the past few years. Most recently they were awarded \$15 million for regional composting through the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. A portion of these funds are intended to construct a commercial-scale composting facility in Juneau. Such partnerships do not exclude working with other businesses or nonprofit organizations. Similar to the Public Safety MOA, the Solid Waste MOA speaks to open communication, an annual meeting, and sharing of information on waste reduction efforts. The MOA does not commit CBJ or Tlingit & Haida to any joint projects or development, however it does establish the relationship for partnership as CBJ works on zero waste planning and development of a zero-waste subdivision.

CBJ leadership is meeting with Tlingit & Haida leadership on Friday for final approval of the Memorandums of Agreement. I hope to have a red folder item before the weekend for public review but did not want it to delay publishing the packet (look for it in supplemental items).

Recommendation: Forward the Memorandums of Agreement to the Assembly for consideration at the November 18th regular meeting.