



CITY OF KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 26-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE IN SUPPORT OF OPT-IN NORTHWEST ARCTIC AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC REGION.

WHEREAS, the youth of the Northwest Arctic are an important part of the strength, culture, leadership, and future of our communities; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the Northwest Arctic share a commitment to creating positive opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills, strengthen their connection to Iñupiaq culture and values, gain employment and life skills, and make meaningful contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, OPT-In Kiana, meaning **One Positive Thing in Kiana**, was founded by youth in 2014 with the belief that young people can make positive contributions to their community and that every person can do at least One Positive Thing every day; and

WHEREAS, through youth leadership, cultural activities, mentoring, workforce development, community service, and regional outreach, the OPT-In model has demonstrated the value of providing young people with meaningful opportunities to learn, lead, serve, and carry knowledge forward; and

WHEREAS, **OPT-In Northwest Arctic** seeks to build upon this community-based model by supporting opportunities for youth throughout the Northwest Arctic region while respecting the identity, priorities, culture, leadership, and strengths of each participating community; and

WHEREAS, OPT-In Northwest Arctic recognizes that each community is unique and that local youth, Elders, families, and community leaders should have a meaningful voice in identifying, planning, and leading opportunities that reflect their community's priorities and strengths; and

WHEREAS, regional collaboration can increase opportunities for youth to connect with Elders, cultural knowledge bearers, mentors, employers, community leaders, organizations, and one another; and

WHEREAS, OPT-In Northwest Arctic seeks to strengthen pathways for youth in areas including **cultural development, community leadership and service, and employment and workforce development**; and

WHEREAS, these opportunities can help young people build skills, confidence, experience, relationships, and a stronger connection to their communities while preparing them to become cultural bearers, community leaders, and employment-ready young adults; and

WHEREAS, locally driven and culturally grounded youth development strengthens not only individual youth, but families, communities, and the Northwest Arctic region as a whole; and

WHEREAS, support from Cities, Tribes, regional organizations, schools, businesses, Elders, and other partners will help OPT-In Northwest Arctic pursue resources and partnerships needed to expand opportunities for youth throughout the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **City Council of the City of Kotzebue, Alaska**, supports the mission and development of **OPT-In Northwest Arctic** and its efforts to expand positive, culturally grounded youth leadership, cultural development, community engagement, and workforce opportunities throughout the Northwest Arctic region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Kotzebue supports regional collaboration that recognizes the independence, strengths, and priorities of individual communities and creates opportunities for youth to learn from and contribute to their own communities and the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Kotzebue supports OPT-In Northwest Arctic in seeking grants, partnerships, technical assistance, and other resources necessary to develop and sustain regional youth opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution demonstrates the City of Kotzebue's support for the development of OPT-In Northwest Arctic and may be provided as documentation of community and regional support in grant applications, partnership development, and other efforts undertaken on behalf of the initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Kotzebue, Alaska, this 15th day of October 2026.

CITY OF KOTZEBUE

Saima Chase
Mayor

ATTEST:

[SEAL]

Donald Jones Jr
City Clerk