



**KNOM Radio Mission, Inc.**

PO Box 988, Nome, AK 99762

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**Lance Johnson**, Board President

**Davis Hovey**, Interim General Manager

**Darleen Fernandez**, Business Manager

Dear City of Nome Common Councilmembers,

During a bad winter storm that hit Nome and Western Alaska in March of 2023, the ARCS tower that was installed at the Nome Rec Center was damaged beyond repair (see attached photos). That tower was Nome's sole connection to the state's [Alaska Rural Communication System \(ARCS\)](#) which is critical for radio stations, city emergency planning committees (LEPCs), and the public to receive emergency broadcasts along with free television and radio programming that benefits public safety.

Although the Nome site, along with the almost one hundred sites across the state were setup and maintained by the State of Alaska; as of 2021 those sites are now serviced and maintained by Alaska Public Media and the local municipalities. KNOM's contract engineer who is employed full-time by Alaska Public Media, Van Craft says:

"We have an estimated cost of \$5000 to replace the antennas and cabling. This also includes technical support (me) coming to Nome to install the antennas and cabling. The system is important for emergency alerting of the public via free over the air TV and the local radio stations. Thanks so much for your help with this."

This leads to the question of who pays to replace the ARCs tower in Nome.

KNOM and KICY, your two local/regional radio stations, are jointly requesting that the City of Nome cover the costs of installing a new tower on site at the Nome Rec Center so that Nome's connection to the emergency broadcast system and other vital services can be restored.

If you agree to pay for this, Van Craft can come up to Nome within the next 30 days to replace the necessary equipment and get the local ARCS tower back online.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request and consider assisting your main local radio stations, KNOM and KICY, in providing essential emergency services to the community of Nome.

Sincerely,

*Davis Hovey*

Davis Hovey, Interim General Manager of KNOM

05.17.2023

Date

*Patty Burchell*

Patty Burchell, General Manager of KICY

5/17/23

Date