



TO: City of Nome Common Council
FROM: Megan Onders, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development
Public Information Officer
DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: Quarterly Report | Q1 2025

The City of Nome continues to navigate growth. With the positions of Assistant City Manager and Public Information Officer existing for the first time, Megan continues to work with Department Heads and two consulting firms to help execute and implement new economic and information support services for the City of Nome and its residents. Former Interim City Manager Brooks Chandler set in motion the hiring of two consultants to help navigate and implement a public information officer and an economic development strategic plan.

Economic Development

Stephanie Queen Consulting is serving the community of Nome with the facilitation and establishment of the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Her public engagement plan is attached as a separate memo to this City Council packet. Stephanie served as the City of Soldotna's City Manager for 9 years; and she continues to be an invaluable mentor and brings tremendous capacity. Stephanie and Megan continue to work in partnership, meeting one hour, once a week.

Megan continues to build out public engagement events that she hopes will inspire the public, and entities in Nome to invest or create businesses in the many economic opportunities in Nome. Megan recommends, the City of Nome continue taking steps to be development ready, whether it is through advancing partnerships for infrastructure coordination of housing, water, sewer roads; the establishment of a Nome Development Authority, or facilitating the development of commercial public-private partnerships that can help increase City revenue and capabilities in service to the community of Nome.

Megan would like to express appreciation for Nome leaders and local corporations and regional institutions for their involvement and participation in City of Nome Economic Development events. It takes many people, working together to achieve transformative change. In working to achieve economic growth, Megan has organized the following events and conducted the following activities, for which agendas and summaries are included in this report as an appendix. Megan would like to thank all City of Nome staff for their help in putting these events together.

- A. Called into Norton Sound Health Corporation's January Board of Directors Public Comment agenda item to thank NSHC for operating emergency response services in Nome; and invited their Board of Directors to be a part of the Nome Economic Development Strategic Planning process to help serve regional residents in Nome, as well as support the medical staff workforce.



- B. Applied for NSEDC's Outside Entity Funding \$50,000 towards advancing the Nome Rec Center Locker Room project. Thank you to Norton Sound Health Corporation, Kawerak Inc., and the Native Village of Solomon for letters of support.
- C. Applied for the State of Alaska's 2025 Department of Homeland Security Grant to update Nome's emergency operation plan; this submission included an application from NJUS to upgrade the utilities energy switches.
- D. Managed the writing of Nome's Federal and State priorities in partnerships with Department Heads. Please see attachment.
- E. Conducted outreach to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to help further Nome's Water and Sewer Master plan and strategize pathways for helping address Nome's water and sewer replacement infrastructure needs.
- F. Megan represented the City of Nome in meeting with staff and members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C. to advocate for Nome's priorities. A huge thanks to federal lobbyist Jay Sterne setting up and managing materials for City of Nome meetings. Please see attachment.
- G. Facilitated an introduction between the Nome Chamber of Commerce and the Alaska Small Business Development Center. The Nome Chamber is now offering their business development support services.
- H. Organized and Leadership and Engineering Roundtable March 21; summary by SQ consulting. Please see attached agenda.
- I. City of Nome Investment Summit Agenda, April 18, 2025; please see attached agenda and promotional material. Please register for the Summit at Nomealaska.org.

Public Relations: The Thompson & Co. PR firm assists in building out the capabilities of a Public Information Officer (PIO), and continues to meet with Department Heads to understand PR needs and community services provided from across City departments, as well as provided to HR draft employee policies for social media; and photo releases. Thompson and Company supported the PIO in a national and statewide press conference last February 2025. I would like to thank Kawerak Inc. for supporting the City of Nome with telecommunications (Starlink) capabilities during the emergency response to the tragic plan accident. I have continued to update and establish PIO communications infrastructure for the Public Information Office, including a home on the website for press releases. The PR firm conducted a survey with Department heads to understand communications needs and improve strategic communications across the City Departments. The PIO continues to create advertising and public notices for the City of Nome. Angie Nguyen continues to support the PR and PIO team in scheduling meetings and helping with content creation. Please see attachment.