



TO: Lee Smith, City Manager

FROM: Megan Onders, Assistant City Manager and Public Information Officer

DATE: July 8, 2025

RE: City of Nome Fiscal Year Q4 Report 2025

Megan continues the work to build out the Public Information Office at the City of Nome, as well as serve as the Assistant City Manager for Economic Development to advance the coordination of partners within Nome for the purpose of economic development.

- April 18, 2025, Megan organized and hosted with the help of Mayor John Handeland and City Manager Lee Smith the City of Nome's Inaugural Investment Summit. A huge thanks to City of Nome staff Angie Nguyen, Dan Grimmer, Cole Cushman, JJ Alvanna, NJUS Thomas Simonsson, Tom Nguyen, Cynthia Gray and Jovan Dull for their help in hosting, driving, setting up, managing the IT connection, and the zoom participation, and the mics to help make this event successful. Cheryl Thompson helped host an evening reception at the City Museum. Many thanks to the drummers and dancers from Teller, Wales, and King Island who volunteers their energy and time to help welcome guests and share in the excitement of Inuit culture of the region.
- April 19, 2025, Stephanie Queen, Economic Development Consultant for the City of Nome hosted a public open house on the City of Nome Economic Development Strategic Plan. Stephanie focused on citizen engagement on issues such as housing, youth, tourism and quality of life.
- May 5, 2025 Assistant City Manager Megan Onders, Human Resources Director Cynthia Gray, and Accounts Payable Tech II Jovan Dull attended the Native Village of Solomon's Missing Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day Event at the Nome Rec Center. Members of the public commented on NPDs Missing Person Protocol. Please find attached for the Nome Common Council leadership and the public, the Missing Person Protocol of the NPD.
- May 12, 2025 Megan Onders gave an empowerment speech to the high school government class at the invitation of government teacher Ryan Wharry.
- May 13, 2025 Stephanie Queen conducted a youth survey on vision and values with Mr. Ryan Wharry's government class.
- May 19, 2025 CM Lee Smith and Megan Onders met with the Sitnasuak Elders Committee to hear concerns as well as vision for economic development.
- May 28, 2025 City of Nome managers meeting with Tourism officials for 2025 cruise ship plans and city support coordination meeting. A huge thanks to Cole at Public Works for moving bus stops for local fundraising.
- May 30, 2025, the PIO issued a budget survey at the request of City Council Member Cameron Piscoya.



- Nome Eskimo Community, City of Nome Meeting on the East End Roads Upgrade Project. Nome Eskimo Community shared with City officials their 50% design plans to upgrade the culverts and storm drains, as well as other roads upgrades.
- June 8-11, 2025, Megan participated in an oil spill response drill hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Chadux Network, and the State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation. Representing the City of Nome in the exercise as Incident Command were Charlie Lean and Tom Vaden. City of Nome staff were embedded across the Coast Guard response teams to witness the organization of a large-scale multi-agency response.
- Megan completed two training courses provided by FEMA to certify the City of Nome in utilizing FEMA's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
- Crisis Communication Plan – Lee and Megan continue to review, and update language for the establishment of Nome's Crisis Communications Plan provided by the PR Firm Thompson and Company.
- Missing person events occurred in Nome on June 2 and June 8. Megan issued notifications to the press and the public, as well as outreach to State agencies in coordination with Danielle Slingsby and Kallie Paniataaq, the Nome Volunteer Fire Department Public Information officials.
- May 29, 2025, PR published on Building Inspector services at the City of Nome. The public is encouraged to visit [nomealaska.org/building](http://nomealaska.org/building) for required permits including
  1. All New Construction;
  2. Demolition of Existing Structures;
  3. Mechanical/Electrical Work;
  4. Moving Structures;
  5. Remodeling Structures; and
  6. Excavation/Fill
- June 3, 2025, developed curriculum in partnership for a 1 hour employee briefing on the history of Nome, Nome's federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, Native corporations, and languages and communication protocols for Nome and the Bering Strait region.
- June 13, 2025, City of Nome, Nome Tribes meeting to advance government to government cooperation.
- May 30 -June 30, 2025 conducted a City of Nome Economic Development Strategy plan survey to hear from the public on economic and community priorities. Results will be incorporated into Nome's Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Q4 Press Releases – attached are press releases for 2025 Q4 announcing the hiring of new City Manager Lee Smith, the City of Nome Arctic Investment Summit, on NPD's police accreditation, and missing person events in Nome.

**Economic Development Strategic Plan** – In February, 2025 the City of Nome commenced the development an Economic Development Strategic Plan with project consultant Stephanie Queen and Assistant City Manager Megan Onders. The Plan will guide





municipal resources and programs in ways that help shape the community's future and drive economic growth. Two events were convened in April, the City of Nome Investment Summit on April 18, and a Public Open House on April 19. A community-wide 'Vision' survey was conducted through the month of June. More than 60 community members participated, and results are being analyzed.

Stephanie Queen is organizing task forces of Nome stakeholders on tourism, education and workforce development, as well as entrepreneurship and small business support. Megan Onders is organizing an Infrastructure Coordination Committee, with housing, transportation, and water/sewer subcommittees to spur federal, state, and tribal investment into Nome's core infrastructure. Each task force will convene in the late summer/early fall of 2025 to review existing data, define key issues, conduct a SWOT, develop goals, objectives, and strategies, identify partners and resources for implementation and help prioritize next steps.

The **City of Nome Investment Summit** convened thought leaders on the geopolitical future of Nome including the Resources Development Council, Graphite One, the Marine Exchange of Alaska, Huna Totem (Southeast village corp. with large scale tourism operations), Johns Hopkins University, UIC Science, the North Pacific Research Board, the University of Alaska, PT Capital, the Alaska Bond Bank, the Denali Commission, and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski. Local and regional representation included the Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak Inc., the King Island Native Corporation, the Nome Visitor Center and Chamber of Commerce, Nome Eskimo Community, Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority and Norton Sound Health Corporation.

**Bering Strait Development Council** – on behalf of the City of Nome, Megan was selected as Chair of the Bering Strait Development Council on April 1, 2025. The BSDC is the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for the region and serves as the planning body for federal Economic Development Administration programs. The ARDOR is staffed by Kawerak's Program Director for Community Planning and Development, Amanda Toerdal. The BSDC is a 16-member board representing interests such as transportation, minerals, communication, tourism, banking, fishing, labor, education, utilities, natural resources, workforce development, tribal councils, Bering Strait Native Corporation, and Kawerak. The BSDC serves as a liaison for local government, businesses and economic interest with the State and Federal government; as well as coordinates public and private efforts to advance economic and social opportunities for the region. Attached is the recently adopted 2025-2030 Bering Strait Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). **The next meeting of the ARDOR will be 7/24.** Megan has established an agenda focused on increasing access to housing finance within Nome and the region by convening HUD and financial institutions.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOME POLICE DEPARTMENT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL</b></p>		
CHAPTER 506	Missing Persons and Runaway Minors	
	Effective: 6-2022	Chief Approval:
	Revision: 12-2024	City Manager:
		

## **CHAPTER 506 MISSING PERSONS AND RUNAWAY MINORS**

### **506.010 DEFINITIONS**

Definitions as used in this chapter:

**Adult Missing Person** - a person 18 years of age or older who is reported missing under mysterious circumstances, a failure to reach a destination in a reasonable amount of time, or an inexplicable separation from a traveling companion.

**Juvenile Missing Person** - a person under the age of 18 who is missing and is not classed as a runaway due to their past history and/or stability.

**Juvenile Runaway** - a person under the age of 18 reported missing by a family member or legal guardian and who is known to have a history of running away or has shown indications of avoiding their legal guardian.

**Missing Person/Search and Rescue** - A person unaccounted for at the conclusion of a search and rescue operation. (Until the person is found, either alive or deceased, their record will be retained in the missing persons database.)

### **506.020 MISSING PERSONS REPORT AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

**A. Missing persons report required. Every case** of a missing person/runaway juvenile requires the immediate completion of a missing person report.

**B. APSIN/NCIC entry required within 24 hours.** An APSIN/NCIC missing person entry must be made as soon as practical, but in no case later than 24 hours after report. [Ref. AS 47.10.141]

**C. Clearinghouse notice required within 48 hours.** Department personnel are required to notify the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse of all runaway or missing persons at the earliest opportunity and in all cases within 48 hours of initial report of disappearance. For a person under 21 years of age, a local or state law enforcement agency shall transmit a missing person report for entry into the Alaska Public Safety Information Network and the National Crime Information Center computer system as soon as practicable, but not later than two hours after receiving the report [Ref. AS 18.65.620]

Information will be submitted to the clearinghouse by mail, telephone, fax, email, or TWIX as follows:

1. as soon as practical, copies of the CFS and missing person data shall be faxed to the Clearinghouse

(FAX [(907)269-7032]), however, if this is not possible, or if no report is available, notification may be made by phone to (907)269-5497; and

2. mail a copy of the missing person report or search and rescue report, photographs, Photograph Release Form, and Medical or Dental records to:

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse  
5700 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507.

***D. Actions upon locating missing person.*** Department personnel who become aware of a found missing person will immediately notify the Clearinghouse and arrange to remove all APSIN/NCIC missing persons locates.

***E. Investigation of missing persons cases.*** Appropriate investigative steps will be taken in all cases of reported missing persons and will follow the ***MISSING PERSON CHECKLIST***. These efforts will include the gathering of information and records that can be used as aids in immediately locating the missing person or identifying the missing person at a later date. Investigating officers will:

1. attempt to locate a photograph of the missing person and immediately circulate missing person information via media and social media sources such as radio, Nome Announce and Facebook. Prior to use of traditional or social media, officers must receive authorization from a supervisor prior to release to ensure that investigative objectives are not unintentionally compromised.

2. attempt to locate copies of medical and dental records of the missing person. This is accomplished by delivering a Medical/Dental Records Release form to the medical facility having records who will then release records relevant to the identity of the missing person. These records should be sent to the Clearinghouse if the case is not resolved within 48 hours. Officers can obtain Medical/Dental Records Release forms in two ways; either:

(a) have the family complete Medical/Dental Records Release; or

(b) if the family, next of kin, or legal guardian cannot be located or does not exist, complete Medical/Dental Records Release and contact the local providers in the event a search warrant is needed.

***F. Copies of reports to be sent to Clearinghouse.*** A copy of completed police reports on missing persons, runaway minors, or search and rescues where persons remain missing will be sent to the Clearinghouse regardless of previous notifications.

***G. On-going investigation.*** The investigation of a missing person is considered closed or “cold” only if the individual in question has been found either deceased or alive and the Chief of Police approves the case to be set as that status. Otherwise the case is considered OPEN and all leads will be investigated and a case point person will be the contact, normally the Investigator. The Chief of Police in efforts with local Search and Rescue (SAR) members are the only individuals allowed to stop a search or cease search efforts.

## **506.030 MISSING PERSONS INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE**

***A. Purpose of Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse.*** AST/ABI is mandated under AS 18.65.600 to operate a clearinghouse for information concerning missing persons, and to establish appropriate procedures for the reporting of missing persons by all law enforcement agencies. The Clearinghouse, established within the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, maintains a database of missing persons and provides forms to collect, maintain, and disseminate accurate and complete information on missing persons.

***B. Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse responsibilities.*** The responsibilities of the Clearinghouse are established as in: AS 18.65.610.

**C. Information in the Clearinghouse database.** The clearinghouse computer may be queried for information using any of the following data elements: name, AKA (nickname), age range, physical description, clothing description (when provided), or location of disappearance.

**D. AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response).** The Alaska AMBER Alert System is a cooperative public service alert to aid in the safe recovery of abducted children. It is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, media, and the public to provide an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The television and radio broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS), email, social media, and the State's transportation 511 system is used to distribute a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor. The goal of the Alaska AMBER Alert system is to provide rapid, widespread information to the public on endangered, abducted children to aid in their safe return.

AMBER Alert Hotline: 866-AKAMBER - (866-252-6237)

Activation requires:

1. Nome Police Department believes a child is in an imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death and reasonable belief an abduction of a child under the age of 18 has occurred. The abduction is a child 17 years or younger. Nome Police Department must believe that the immediate broadcast to the public will enhance the efforts of law enforcement to locate the child and apprehend the suspect and have as much information available to describe the event. All information must have been entered into NCIC.

**E. SILVER Alert.** State of Alaska Silver Alert System - Silver Alert is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, state and local government, and Alaska's media and broadcasters to alert the public when a vulnerable adult is missing and believed to be in serious danger. The system uses media and broadcast releases, email, social media, and the State's transportation 511 system to distribute a description of the missing adult. Silver Alert Hotline: 855-SILVR99 - (855-745-8799)

1. Nome Police Department Officers must have had training either through Alaska Department of Public Safety Training Academy or previous training and experience either before employment through Nome Police Department or during that provides help with interacting with individuals with cognitive impairment, not limited to dementia, intellectual and developmental disabilities and brain injuries.

## **506.040 HANDLING RUNAWAY MINORS**

**A. Disposition of runaway minors.** If a runaway minor is contacted by a department member and is not subject to arrest or detention, the member will take the minor into protective custody and the member shall:

1. return the minor to the legal custodian at the legal custodian's residence if the residence is in the same community where the minor was found and if the legal custodian consents to the return, except that the member may not use this option if the member has reasonable cause to believe that the minor has experienced physical or sexual abuse in the legal custodian's household;
2. take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the legal custodian if the legal custodian does not consent to return of the minor under (1), except that the member may not use this option if the member has reasonable cause to believe that the minor has experienced physical or sexual abuse in the legal custodian's household; or
3. if disposition of the minor is not made under (1) or (2), take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services (OCS), a program for runaway minors licensed by the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 47.10.310, a shelter for runaways that has a permit from the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 47.32 that agrees to shelter the minor, or a facility or contract agency of the Department of Health and Social Services.

- (a) If the member plans to take the minor to an office, program, shelter, or facility under (3), the

member shall give the highest priority to taking the minor to an office, program, shelter, or facility that is semi- secure.

(b) If an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services (OCS), a licensed program for runaway minors, a shelter for runaways that will accept the minor, or a facility or contract agency of the Department of Health and Social Services does not exist in the community, the member shall take the minor to another suitable location and promptly notify the Department of Health and Social Services.

(c) Without a court order a minor in protective custody may not be housed in a jail or other detention facility but may be housed in a semi-secure portion of an office, program, shelter, or other facility.

***B. Runaway minors to receive written and verbal advisement of rights.*** A department member shall immediately, upon taking a minor into protective custody, advise the minor of available mediation services and of the right to social services under 47.10.142(b). The member will complete the Advisement of Rights of Runaway Minor form and provide a copy to the minor. The member shall also advise the legal custodian, if known, that the minor has been taken into protective custody and that counseling services for the custodian and the minor's household may be available.

***C. Health and Social Services responsible for care of runaway minors.*** Contact the Department of Health and Social Services (OCS) for offices or facilities where minors can be taken.

***D. Third party custody of runaway minors.*** The Chief of Police will establish procedures for recording the date and time that members of the department receive notification made under AS 11.51.130(a)(4)(B), Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. That sub-section requires a person to notify a peace officer, a law enforcement agency, or the Office of Children's Services of the name of a minor and the minor's location. The notification is required if the person is keeping a minor from the minor's guardian because the person reasonably believes that the minor is in danger of physical injury or in need of temporary shelter. The procedures required under this section will include advising the Office of Children's Services that the department has received such notification and the details of that notification.

## **506.050 ATTACHMENTS**

**A. Missing Persons Checklist**

**B. Release of Photographs**

**C. Medical/Dental Records Release**

**D. Advisement of Rights of Runaway Minors**



## VII. Goals and Action Plan Updates

In September and November 2024, BSDC members and local leaders convened for a meeting and work session to discuss the *Bering Strait CEDS: 2025-2030*. At the session, the board reviewed the 2025-2030 CEDS goals and action plan, and specific actions were identified for the coming five-year period. The table below discusses the goals and actions identified in the 2025-2030 planning session. Goals lined out in the CEDS are not prioritized, each is considered to be of equal importance.

Goal 1: Improve community services to increase resiliency and quality of life.			
Objective	Activities and Tasks	Performance Measures	Key Partners
1.1 Increase housing availability, affordability, and accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research barriers to financing new construction and land ownership in Rural Alaska.</li> <li>Advocate for increased federal funds for housing, such as Native American Housing Assistance &amp; Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program (HIP), and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding.</li> <li>Explore establishing a Self-Help Housing program in Nome.</li> <li>Develop case studies of regional individuals that have financed and/or built their own homes or multifamily housing.</li> <li>Examine the viability of increasing the amount of transient housing.</li> <li>Explore the possibility of working with non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity, to increase housing capacity.</li> <li>Conduct needs assessment of future housing needs (in Nome and villages).</li> <li>Encourage all key partners to work together to develop new housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased persons per household in communities and region</li> <li>Increased construction projects year over year</li> <li>Number of construction jobs created</li> <li>Number of 5-star energy homes that have been built</li> <li>Number and cost of building permits (Nome only)</li> <li>Number of renovations to existing homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>BSNC</li> <li>Sitnasuak Corporation</li> <li>Tribal entities</li> <li>HUD</li> <li>AHFC</li> <li>Nome Community Center</li> <li>Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC)</li> <li>USDA</li> <li>Village Corporations</li> <li>NAHASDA</li> <li>BSDC</li> <li>NSEDC</li> <li>Bureau of Indian Affairs/HIP</li> <li>Rural CAP/Self-Help Program</li> <li>NREL Alaska</li> <li>Private lenders</li> </ul>



1.2 Improve public safety and community resiliency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP), Emergency Operation Plans (EOP), and Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERP).</li> <li>Support communities/ responders in actively developing plans through research and advocacy. Assist grant writers and administrators region-wide in obtaining funding for public safety projects.</li> <li>Documenting/tracking “outside of Nome” Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provided.</li> <li>Develop MOAs between Nome EMS and village entities. Support the development of community adaptation plans.</li> <li>Support communities in developing public safety commissions.</li> <li>Attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings bi-monthly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of completed plans</li> <li>Number of projects implemented at the regional and community level</li> <li>Number of MOAs in place between Nome EMS and village entities that want them</li> <li>Number of communities with VPSOs or other public safety presence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>Alaska State Troopers</li> <li>Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management</li> <li>Alaska Red Cross</li> <li>NSHC</li> <li>Municipal governments</li> <li>Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation</li> <li>Volunteer Fire/Search &amp; Rescue/EMS Departments</li> <li>LEPC</li> <li>VPSO</li> <li>USCG</li> </ul>
1.3 Implement Bering Strait Resiliency Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement EDA-funded Bering Strait Resilience Plan</li> <li>Provide technical assistance and capacity building for member organizations, local businesses, and other local stakeholders impacted by human and wildlife health emergencies.</li> <li>Establish an Economic Resilience Task Force (ERTF) to plan for, and coordinate the response to, resilience shocks such as natural disasters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses served</li> <li>Amount of relief funding obtained for communities and organizations</li> <li>Number of users on BeringStrait.biz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>Tribal entities</li> <li>Local governments</li> <li>Nome Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Local businesses</li> <li>LEPC</li> </ul>

Goal 2: Strengthen our economy in ways that preserve and enhance our quality of life while ensuring our environment is not harmed.			
Objective	Activities and Tasks	Performance Measures	Key Partners
2.1 Educate and train residents for employment in growing industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide region-wide and village-based training opportunities.</li> <li>• Assist residents of the region with documented disabilities in improving job-related skills.</li> <li>• Explore and promote collaboration on apprenticeship and technical-level type programs for priority industries. Such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environmental and safety</li> <li>○ Business and tribal governance</li> <li>○ Early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary education</li> <li>○ Healthcare (health aide, nursing)</li> <li>○ Project management</li> <li>○ Aviation</li> <li>○ Construction trades (electrician, carpentry, plumbing, welding)</li> <li>○ Engineer (environmental, mechanical, etc.)</li> <li>○ Diesel engine mechanics</li> <li>○ Utility management and operations (electrical, fuel, sewer, renewable energy and energy auditors)</li> <li>○ Maritime industry (processing, cruise industry, cargo, port operations, cargo/tankers)</li> <li>○ Heavy equipment operations</li> <li>○ Fisheries</li> <li>○ Scientific research and monitoring</li> <li>○ Emergency response (including EMT)</li> <li>○ Natural resource occupations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coordinate among entities to provide scholarships for regional residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trainings offered</li> <li>• Number of certified technicians/completions of programs</li> <li>• Number jobs secured because of the training</li> <li>• Number of residents assisted in gaining job-related skills</li> <li>• Number of scholarships provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>• NSEDC</li> <li>• NSHC</li> <li>• BSNC</li> <li>• Bering Strait village corporations</li> <li>• DOLWD</li> <li>• UAF Northwest Campus</li> <li>• Bering Strait School District</li> <li>• Nome Public Schools</li> <li>• NACTEC</li> <li>• AVEC</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• UAF Alaska Sea Grant</li> <li>• Denali Commission</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue zero waste initiatives (recycling, backhaul, etc.)</li> <li>Collaboration with Bering Strait School District and Nome School District to pursue improvements in regional education outcomes</li> </ul>			
2.2 Support entrepreneurship and the arts. Provide business planning and research assistance. <b>Champion</b> Kawerak Business Planning Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote tuition assistance to individuals interested in new or expanding businesses.</li> <li>Seek new partners and funding to conduct and promote general business startup workshops covering areas such as business planning, marketing, and accounting principles.</li> <li>Promote an environment in which small businesses will succeed by creating networks of resources and business owners.</li> <li>Promote e-commerce by supporting training workshops and educating individuals and tribes on the use of the internet as a business and marketing tool. Continue to seek out funding to promote e-commerce.</li> <li>Promote Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation small business seed money competitions and provide technical assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of individuals completing business-related classes</li> <li>Number of businesses workshops held in the region</li> <li>Amount of investment in new or expanding businesses</li> <li>Number of businesses starts</li> <li>Number of jobs created</li> <li>Continued visitor surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC)</li> <li>NSEDC</li> <li>Tribal entities</li> <li>UACED</li> <li>Nome Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>SBA</li> <li>UAF Northwest Campus</li> <li>University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Business Enterprise Institute (BEI)</li> <li>Tribal State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)</li> </ul>	
2.3 Capitalize on natural resources in environmentally responsible ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Nome Chamber of Commerce to incorporate village concerns and needs into regional tourism planning. Provide technical assistance to villages that have identified tourism as a priority, including Pilgrim Hot springs.</li> <li>Work with NSEDC to explore the feasibility of salmon and other fisheries enhancement programs and novel fisheries enhancement technology.</li> <li>Explore the feasibility of seismic work (like what is being done in Kotzebue) toward finding enough natural gas to run a power plant and for residential use.</li> </ul>	<p>Tax revenue</p> <p>Gold production and price</p> <p>Fisheries harvest #'s and price</p> <p>Other mineral production and price</p> <p>Number of tribes interested in starting a fish hatchery in Norton Sound</p> <p>Number of contaminated sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>NSEDC</li> <li>BSNC</li> <li>Bering Strait village corporations</li> <li>Tribal councils</li> <li>The City of Nome</li> <li>DNR</li> <li>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</li> <li>Private Sector</li> <li>Regional Aquaculture</li> <li>NSHC</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and provide support services for responsible resource development.</li> <li>Relying on and supporting research activities in a way that practices self-determination and is collaborative with tribal entities and communities.</li> <li>Evaluate environmental impacts of proposed development.</li> <li>Support and advocate for the natural resources which the subsistence economy depends on (land/sea animal materials, gardening, hydroponics, reindeer feed, and harvesting roots/greens/berries, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nome Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>UAF Sea Grant</li> <li>EPA, General Assistance Program</li> </ul>
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Goal 3: Promote economic stability by creating, maintaining, and upgrading infrastructure and regional collaboration to adequately meet our current and anticipated needs.			
Objective	Activities and Tasks	Performance Measures	Key Partners
3.1 Improve and increase access to utility infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete local water and sewer plans for Bering Strait communities, including assessments of the current systems. Also, provide training on how to perform maintenance.</li> <li>Support utilities and municipalities with pricing and management.</li> <li>Creation of utility O&amp;M plans and follow through.</li> <li>Review of current tech around energy and sanitation to see if they could be implemented.</li> <li>Improve best practice scores with ANTHC and VHS to reach the minimum standard to obtain funding and technical assistance for water/sewer and power infrastructure.</li> <li>Implement renewable or low-carbon power systems and efficiency upgrades in communities when feasible.</li> <li>Work with local, state, and federal partners to perform bulk fuel farm upgrades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of communities with completed local plans</li> <li>Number of communities with sufficient sewer and water systems</li> <li>Percent of homes served in each community</li> <li>Cost of water, sewer, and electrical service by community</li> <li>Number of communities following O&amp;M plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>NSHC</li> <li>Community Utility Assistance Program (from NSEDC)</li> <li>Rural Utility Business Advisor</li> <li>ANTHC</li> <li>DCCED</li> <li>Denali Commission</li> <li>USDA Rural Development</li> <li>UAF Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP)</li> <li>Engineering Ministries International</li> <li>AEA</li> <li>Department of Environmental Conservation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with communities to assess and address needs regarding landfill facilities, including the need for backhaul of hazardous or other materials not suitable for landfill disposal.</li> <li>• Assess the status of community leach fields, and fund and perform upgrades, repairs, and/or relocation as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount invested in water/sewer and power infrastructure</li> <li>• Life remaining on current landfill facilities</li> <li>• Amount of funding dedicated to leach field projects</li> </ul>	
3.2 Increase internet speeds and decrease costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the state and national broadband task forces and advocate for Bering Strait community interests.</li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a tribal government negotiating government rates with telecom companies.</li> <li>• Work with our state and federal legislators and local providers.</li> <li>• Be involved in tribal consultation as broadband policies are being developed.</li> <li>• Document the costs of broadband in rural communities.</li> <li>• Look at the feasibility of a tribally owned communication system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price per internet plan</li> <li>• Upload/download speeds</li> <li>• Bandwidth capacity</li> <li>• Number of providers participating in the conversation (GCI, TelAlaska, etc.)</li> <li>• Percent of homes with access to broadband internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>• Alaska Broadband Task Force</li> <li>• GCI</li> <li>• TelAlaska</li> <li>• Quintillion, LLC.</li> <li>• Starlink</li> <li>• Alaska Regional Development Organizations</li> <li>• Alaska Tribal Spectrum</li> </ul>
3.3 Explore the feasibility of a regional governance model to capture the benefits of resource development projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the economic feasibility of a Borough.</li> <li>• Explore the economic feasibility of a Port Authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure regional interest levels on collaboration models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Nome</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• Regional Municipalities</li> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> </ul>
3.4 Improve and develop other community building infrastructure/facilities (other than housing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund and implement building upgrades to bring community facilities up to code (tribal offices, clinics, washeteria, community centers, etc.).</li> <li>• Develop and implement operations and maintenance plans for shared community facilities.</li> <li>• Review local emergency and hazard mitigation plans to identify community needs for new or existing physical built infrastructure to support emergency response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of funding dedicated to develop/redevelop community structures</li> <li>• Number of plans in effect for building maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>• Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</li> <li>• Department of Defense</li> <li>• Bering Strait School District</li> <li>• Tribes</li> <li>• Local City Governments</li> </ul>

Goal 4: Decrease the cost of energy			
Objective	Activities and Tasks	Performance Measures	Key Partners
4.1 Conduct ongoing energy audits on community and commercial buildings throughout the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out which buildings were not audited.</li> <li>Identify sources of funding to assist with this work.</li> <li>Make a “Plan of Action” for each community on how to tackle the audits (which buildings should be done first).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of audits completed</li> <li>Improvements made to structures</li> <li>Reduced energy consumption measured by kWh and gallons of fuel oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>BSNC</li> <li>NSEDC</li> <li>AEA</li> <li>Rural CAP</li> <li>Tribal entities</li> <li>Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority</li> <li>Municipal governments</li> <li>ANTHC</li> <li>Denali Commission</li> <li>NREL Alaska</li> <li>U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)</li> <li>DCCED</li> <li>AHFC</li> </ul>
4.2 Improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and maintain energy usage data for community buildings and residences.</li> <li>Complete energy audits for home, public, and commercial buildings.</li> <li>Provide energy-specific information to regional grant writers.</li> <li>Develop an appliance replacement program.</li> <li>Fund home energy upgrade program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of fuel oil consumption by building and community</li> <li>kWh usage by building and community</li> <li>Dollars distributed in funding for energy upgrades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>BSNC</li> <li>NSEDC</li> <li>Rural CAP</li> <li>AEA</li> <li>ANTHC</li> <li>Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority</li> <li>Tribal entities</li> <li>USDA-Rural Development</li> <li>Denali Commission</li> <li>DCCED</li> <li>United Way</li> <li>DOE</li> </ul>

4.3 Explore and evaluate the feasibility of alternative energy projects and energy upgrade projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund the Bering Strait Regional Energy Plan 2025 update and Energy Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Explore and fund a regional independent power producer for community renewable energy projects.</li> <li>• Work with local, regional utilities to identify suitable alternative energy sites and sources.</li> <li>• Work with local, state, and federal partners to explore feasibility and construct community solar projects.</li> <li>• Work with communities to implement Bering Strait GRID Resiliency Group and deploy funding to tribes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community energy action plans completed</li> <li>• Number of identified community projects</li> <li>• Amount of funding dedicated to projects in the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>• Unuatuq, LLC.</li> <li>• BSNC</li> <li>• AVEC</li> <li>• Village corporations</li> <li>• ACEP</li> <li>• NSEDC</li> <li>• U.S. Department of Energy</li> <li>• AEA</li> <li>• NREL Alaska</li> <li>• Tribal entities</li> <li>• DCCED</li> <li>• DNR</li> <li>• EDA</li> <li>• ANTHC</li> <li>• DOE</li> </ul>
4.4 Increase local knowledge of community energy systems and ways to reduce the costs of energy use (residents and utilities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring EnergyWise curriculum to schools in the region.</li> <li>• Monitor and advocate for new energy efficiency programs.</li> <li>• Develop and distribute flyers on energy-saving tips.</li> <li>• Develop PSAs on energy efficiency strategies.</li> <li>• Work with local utilities to share information on energy efficiency improvements and clean energy projects.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate to protect the PCE program.</li> <li>• Update Community Energy Profile priority energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of outreach materials developed and distributed</li> <li>• Number of residents participating in energy efficiency programs</li> <li>• Number of communities with current energy priority lists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kawerak, Inc.</li> <li>• RurAL CAP</li> <li>• NSEDC</li> <li>• BSNC</li> <li>• Tribal entities</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• KNOM</li> <li>• KICY</li> <li>• The Nome Nugget</li> <li>• AVEC</li> <li>• Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative</li> <li>• AEA</li> </ul>





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 8, 2025 9:00 AM

**Media Contact:**

Megan Onders

[monders@nomealaska.org](mailto:monders@nomealaska.org)

907-304-3111

**MISSING PERSON ALERT: Leanna Apassingok**

Nome, Alaska – The Nome Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in locating Leanna Apassingok, who was last seen leaving the Norton Sound Health Corporation Patient Hostel West at 1:30 a.m. on foot with an unknown male heading towards Bering St.

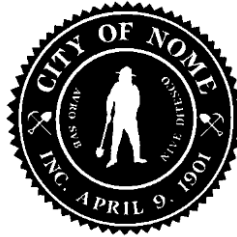
Leanna is possibly wearing a dark blue light jacket, grey sweat pants, and black boots. She is 47 years old, 4'11" in height and 121 lbs. Her hair color is black/grey.

If you have seen Leanna or have any information regarding her whereabouts, please contact the Nome Police Department at (907) 443-5262.

The Nome Police Department urges anyone with information to come forward to assist with ensuring Leanna's safe return.

###

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland  
**Manager**  
William "Lee" Smith, III  
**Clerk**  
Dan Grimmer



**Nome City Council**  
Kohren Green  
Scott Henderson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Maggie Miller  
Cameron Piscoya

102 Division St. • P.O. Box 281  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Phone (907) 443-6663  
Fax (907) 443-5345

## PRESS RELEASE

*May 1, 2025*

On April 29, 2025 the Nome Police Department (NPD) received accreditation from the Oregon Alliance Standard/Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. This achievement represents years of hard work to not only earn and build trust with the community, but also improve operations, training and response.

On June, 7, 2021, the City of Nome's Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) passed a motion recommending NPD pursue accreditation through the Oregon Alliance Standard. The PSAC plays an important role in guiding the City of Nome and the NPD.

The purpose of accreditation is to ensure the policies and operations of NPD fosters accountability, transparency, and training of officers. The accreditation process included a systemic internal review of operating standards against best practices in community policing, personnel management, and the handling of evidence.

"I would like to express my thanks to Nome's police officers, dispatch, evidence, victim services and administrative staff for their commitment to the public safety of Nome. We understand that accreditation is not an end all, be all, but that it will take the ongoing work of our staff in service to the community of Nome. We have made advances investigating crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault and we will not stop," said Chief William Crockett of the Nome Police Department.

An annual average of 120-150 sexual assaults previously reported was reduced to 29 in 2024. NPD now has advocates on staff to work in partnership with investigative officers to examine every case. They continue to review and investigate prior cases as well to bring justice to victims.

Mayor John Handeland commented, "On behalf of the City Council, I express our appreciation of the hard work and the dedication of the NPD employees. They not only listened to the public's concerns and those of the Public Safety Advisory Commission, they took action. Accreditation was achieved through long hours and hard work of all NPD staff. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team working to assure public safety in our community. I am hopeful the rates continue to decline, but we will investigate every report. Our victim's advocates stand ready to assist any person in reporting an assault. I am confident we can build a better history."

The City of Nome is currently recruiting for a police officer, and police dispatcher, with proper certification and commitment to community. Please visit, [nomealaska.org](http://nomealaska.org) to apply for a job at the Nome Police Department.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2025

**Media Contact:**

Megan Onders

[monders@nomealaska.org](mailto:monders@nomealaska.org)

907-304-3111

**MISSING PERSON ALERT: Dexter Irrigoo**

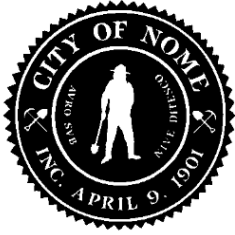
Nome, Alaska – The Nome Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in locating Dexter Irrigoo, who was last seen leaving the NSHC Patient Hostel East on foot traveling west on Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 8:20 a.m.

Dexter is wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, green hat and black shoes. He is about 5'4/5'5 and 130 lbs. Dexter is 67 years old and from Gambell.

If you have seen Dexter or have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact the Nome Police Department at (907) 443-5262.

The Nome Police Department urges anyone with information to come forward to assist with ensuring Dexter's safe return.

###



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 11, 2025**

## **City of Nome to Host Arctic Investment Summit April 18–19**

### ***Leaders convene to help shape Nome's future***

**NOME, ALASKA** — With the Arctic region growing in global importance, the City of Nome is convening a major investment summit on April 18, 2025, followed by a public engagement open house on April 19. Together, these events intend to spotlight Nome's role as a leader in Arctic development and ensure that the region's future is shaped by those who call it home.

"Nome isn't just a remote city—it's a rising center of gravity for Arctic opportunity," said Mayor John Handeland. "We're bringing people together to align investments with community values to chart a course forward."

Positioned at the front lines of Arctic diplomacy and economic transition, Nome is emerging as one of Alaska's most strategically important communities. As the site of what will be the nation's first deep draft Arctic port, Nome is poised to become a critical hub for international shipping, scientific research, national security, fisheries, maritime safety and Arctic tourism. The Port of Nome serves as an economic pillar for communities across western Alaska, as well as exporting fish, rock and gravel resources.

Nome, home to four federally recognized tribes is more than a regional hub; Nome is a gateway to America's Arctic future and a robust local economy. Nome is uniquely positioned to balance innovation with tradition, growth with stewardship, as the Arctic opens to new trade routes, scientific exploration, and geopolitical attention.

The Nome Investment Summit on Friday, April 18 will focus on science, tourism, workforce development, public infrastructure, critical minerals, and hospitality development. Speakers include Senator Lisa Murkowski, regional tribal leaders, and representatives from the Denali Commission, Graphite One, the University of Alaska, and other key institutions:

#### **LEADERSHIP KEYNOTE 9:45 AM**

- John Handeland, Mayor, City of Nome
- Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator, United States Senate
- Roy Ashenfelter, Chairman, Bering Straits Native Corporation
- Melanie Bahnke, President and CEO, Kawerak Inc.
- Marilyn Koezuna-Irelan, Chairwoman, King Island Native Corporation
- Leila Kimbrell, Executive Director, Resource Development Council
- Steve White, Executive Director, Marine Exchange of Alaska

#### **TOURISM 11:15 AM**

- Susan Bell, Vice President Strategic Initiatives, Huna Totem Corporation
- Shauntel Bruner Alvanna, Nome Visitor Center and Nome Chamber of Commerce

#### **BUILDING COMMUNITY 11:45 AM**

- Seth Kaplan, PhD, Lecturer, School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins

#### **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM**

#### **SCIENCE 1:00 PM**

- Terri Mitchell, UIC Science General Manager
- Lynn Palensky, Executive Director, North Pacific Research Board
- Larry Hinzman, President's Arctic Professor, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- Emma Pate, Executive Director, Nome Eskimo Community

#### **PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE 2:00 PM**

- Julie Kitka, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
- Jolene Lyon, President and CEO, Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
- Joy Baker, Acting Port Director, City of Nome

#### **CRITICAL MINERALS 3:00 PM**

Mike Schaffner, Senior Vice President Operations, Graphite One

#### **INVESTMENT/DEVELOPMENT 3:15 PM**

- Hugh Short, CEO, PT Capital
- Luke Welles, Chairman, Alaska Bond Bank & General Manager/CEO, Rural Health Solutions

## **RECEPTION 4:30 PM-5:30 PM Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum**

**On Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,** the City of Nome will host a Public Open House at Old St. Joe's to gather input on vision and values for the City of Nome Economic Development Strategic Plan. Community members will be invited to share their vision for Nome's future and weigh in on long-term economic priorities—from infrastructure and housing to workforce development, business attraction, downtown redevelopment, the ivory art and the way of life economy.

Stephanie Queen, economic development consultant for the City of Nome, will conduct a live survey. This session is open to all residents and stakeholders.

### **Event Details:**

- **City of Nome Investment Summit:** Friday, April 18 | 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. | Old St. Joe's Hall, Nome
- **Public Open House:** Saturday, April 19 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Old St. Joe's Hall
- **Virtual Access:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/93094796555?pwd=lvMCNbTxpDZJRqO4eU5iT4jwsFhC.1>  
Meeting ID: 930 9479 6555 Passcode: 425046
- Registration and a full agenda are available at [nomealaska.org](http://nomealaska.org).

This summit reflects a commitment to collaborative planning, where Indigenous leadership, public engagement, and investment intersect to build a stronger future for Nome and for Alaska.

### **About the City of Nome**

Located on Alaska's Bering Sea coast, Nome is a center for Arctic transportation, research, and community resilience. With a rich Indigenous heritage and a growing role in global affairs, Nome is helping lead Alaska—and the nation—into the future of the Arctic.

### **Media contact**

Megan Onders, Public Information Officer, City of Nome  
907-304-3111

**Mayor**

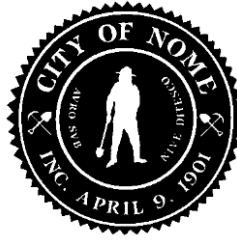
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Kohren Green

Scott Henderson

Mark Johnson

Adam Martinson

Maggie Miller

Cameron Piscoya

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Nome, Alaska 99762  
Phone (907) 443-6663  
Fax (907) 443-5345

**PRESS RELEASE**

4/15/2025

The Nome Common Council selected William "Lee" Smith III to serve as Nome's City Manager. At last night's regular meeting, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution formally approving a negotiated five-year contract.

Mr. Smith comes to Nome with decades of experience managing municipal government units. Lee was raised on the Coastal Outer Banks of North Carolina; and has spent a career serving local government in coastal communities between Georgia and North Carolina. Most recently, from 2014 to 2022, Lee served as County Manager for Chatham County, a coastal community outside of Savannah, Georgia. Previously he served as the County Manager for Wayne County in Goldsboro, a coastal plain community in North Carolina.

Mr. Smith has experience developing and managing numerous public works projects including roads, bridges, drainage, water, sewer, and broadband projects. He also has experience responding to emergency events, including storms, fires, and chemical spills. The Port of Savanna grew during his tenure there. For four years he worked as Executive Director of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission, gaining experience developing a public-private economic development agency, as well as experience with public finance referendums.

Mayor John Handeland commented, "I am thrilled Lee is joining us to lead our team of dedicated and willing employees wanting to do their best for the community. Lee has a reputation as a consensus builder with strong work ethics, is a great communicator, a problem solver and is community oriented. In getting acquainted with Lee, I've found him to be honest, respectful, creative and personable. I'm confident he will be a great fit for Nome. I look forward to working closely with him to effect positive outcomes in our community."

Smith is in route to Nome today and will be onsite as of Wednesday, April 16, 2025 to commence his work for the City of Nome on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.