



December 15, 2023

City of Nome
Attn: Glenn Steckman, City Manager
Sent Via Email: GSteckman@nomealaska.org

Dear Glenn,

Please accept this as NSHC's 60-day notice to terminate the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department (NVAD) Services. As you know, NSHC has provided in-kind medical leadership for the program for many years. NSHC became aware of concerns from community members regarding untimely ambulance responses in the fall of 2019 and addressed those concerns with a letter to the council on October 7, 2019. Despite continued community member concerns and comments about untimely or lack of emergency response, the City of Nome has not made any changes other than to ask NSHC to provide more resources. This has been more than a four-year conversation between organizations and the discussions are not going anywhere.

In addition to providing a Medical Director for NVAD at no cost, NSHC provides all supplies, medications, and oxygen at no cost. These items are not charged against any grant that NSHC receives. We have provided a \$25/per run-volunteer appreciation stipend and donate \$10,000 annually to contribute to your vehicle maintenance. In 2007 and 2012, NSHC contributed matching funds to help the City of Nome purchase new ambulances. These were out-of-pocket contributions by NSHC. These matches were made to support a grant that NSHC authored and reported out on to secure CODE Blue and USDA funding to fund remaining portions of these City-of-Nome acquired ambulances.

In summary, NSHC provided the following for NVAD Operations from FY21-FY23:

- \$101,003- Cash payments/donations made (appreciation fees paid, annual maintenance contribution, and tribal member ambulance bills paid)
- \$77,299- In-kind donations of medical supplies and medications (no including Medical Director fees or oxygen)
- **Total FY21-FY23: \$178,302 (average of \$89,151/year, not including in-kind Medical Director Fees or oxygen supply)**

Additionally, NSHC donated \$40,000 to match the \$114,254 from USDA so the City of Nome could purchase your 2007 ambulance and donated \$67,928.50 to match \$45,000 from Code Blue funding so the City of Nome could purchase your 2012 ambulance.

As noted above, NSHC has demonstrated its commitment to partner with you to deliver a quality community ambulance program. Unfortunately, this situation has not improved and the concerns brought forward have been dismissed as not valid. The first step is to recognize there is a problem and that changes need to be made. NSHC respectfully withdraws from this partnership.

NSHC will send a communication to our tribes to explain the reason behind its decision to terminate the MOA and to explain how to use NSHC's purchased and referred care program to assist with ambulance bills that come from the City of Nome. Additionally, NSHC will staff up a team of emergency responders to meet the needs of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie Gorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angie Gorn, CEO