



July 23, 2021

City of Nome
Attn: Glenn Steckman, City Manager
PO Box 281
Nome, AK 99762

Re: Tax-exempt appeal account #001.115.01

Dear Mr. Steckman:

Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is requesting a reversal of the property taxation of two of Norton Sound Health Corporation's (NSHC) medical facilities. Recently, we received a combined tax invoice from the City of Nome for \$92,778.00 for account # 001.115.01. An application requesting tax exemption for this account was submitted timely in January 2021, but NSHC was not made aware of the final decision until the most recent tax assessment bills were received. Therefore, we were not able to appeal this decision within the 30-day timeframe required. This is an appeal letter.

These two facilities are the Patient Hostel and the new Wellness and Training Center. These properties are located at 704 E. N. St., Block 116 Lot.1A. The NSHC Patient Hostel houses patients who are currently undergoing medical treatment at the hospital. It has served a very important role during the Covid-19 Pandemic by housing residents who are under quarantine orders from the NSHC medical staff.

The Wellness and Training Center, which has recently opened, is adjacent to the Patient Hostel and is the location for Behavioral Health Services, Tribal Healing and Wellness Services, the Day Shelter, and Regional Training for EMS/EMT courses and Health Aides. The building will provide the space for the Sobering Center/ Social Detoxification Services soon. It is an extension of the Norton Sound Regional Hospital, providing continuum of care services to the residents of the region. For years, the City of Nome has recognized that NSHC is a hospital and operates exclusively for non-profit medical treatment as a Critical Access Hospital, and as such, tax- exempt. In addition, for years, the City of Nome has recognized the BIA building located at 200 W. 1st AVE(former Day Shelter) as tax- exempt, account #001.241.54, as well as the Community Health Services building, located at 607 Division Street, account #001.211.03A, as tax -exempt. The Behavioral Health Services Department recently transitioned from this building into the new Wellness and Training Center. We feel very strongly that the City of Nome should reconsider levying taxes on the Patient Hostel as well as the Wellness and Training Center.

The State of Alaska, in its general taxation statute, provides a tax exemption for all property used exclusively for non-profit religious, charitable, cemetery, hospital, or educational purposes; AS 29.45.030. In addition, the City of Nome lists tax exemptions at 17.20.020 of its municipal regulations. That section provides, (a) The following property is exempt from general taxation: (1) All property required to be exempted by state or federal law, including, but not limited to, property identified in AS 29.45.030.

NSHC strongly requests, that based on the above State and local law, the City of Nome reverse its position of taxing the Patient Hostel as well as the Wellness and Training Center. NSHC will pay all other accounts as invoiced, but request that an extension to the deadline of 8/2/21 be granted for account #001.115.01, until this matter is resolved.

I am available to discuss this matter at your convenience by email at agorn@nshcorp.org or by phone at 907-434-1927. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Angie Gorn, CEO