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CITY OF NOME  
CLERKS DEPARTMENT



Seaside Center  
108 Front Street  
Post Office Box 2129  
Nome, Alaska 99762

Date: April 17, 2025

City of Nome – City Council  
Post Office Box 281  
Nome, Alaska 99762

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF HALFWAY HOUSE PERMIT**

GEO Reentry of Alaska, Inc, owned and operated by The GEO Group out of Boca Raton, Florida, requests renewal of its Halfway house Permit for the continued operation of the Seaside Community Residential Reentry Center. Due to several changes in facility management, the previous permit expired on May 23, 2023 as indicated in your letter dated April 3, 2025. We sincerely apologize for this oversight and are prepared to pay any fines imposed by the Council for our operating without a permit for this time. We have also taken steps to ensure an oversight like this does not occur again in the future.

The Seaside Community Residential Reentry Center initially opened its doors at 237 Front Street, Nome, Alaska in 1999; it then relocated to 108 Front Street, Nome, Alaska 99762, and has operated in this location since May 2016. Seaside is currently contracted with the State of Alaska Department of Corrections to house up to forty-five (45) minimum and community custody residents, with a maximum capacity of sixty-two (62) beds [42 male beds, 20 females]. The housing criteria for Seaside as set by Nome Municipal code ensures that no untreated sex offenders are housed at the facility except those that are in an “in-transit” status, where they have been released from Alaska Department of Corrections Custody but are awaiting a flight to return to their village of origin.

Seaside has a total of eighteen (18) positions, with all staff being trained in Security measures. A minimum of two (2) staff are designated for Security and are present in the building at all times. These designated Security staff are responsible for hourly counts, separate hourly walk throughs, medication calls, perimeter checks, supervision of on-site visitation, assisting residents with access to their attorneys and the courts, and oversight of meal service. All staff employed at Seaside Center are trained on Alaska Department of Corrections policy and its applicability to Seaside and its residents.

Pursuant to the requirements of Nome Municipal Code 3.30.50 the following information is offered:

1. Residents Housing Statistics

a. Number residents admitted to Seaside since issuance of previous permit:

- i. CY2020 – 236
- ii. CY2021 – 253
- iii. CY2022 – 203
- iv. CY2023 – 297
- v. CY2024 – 305
- vi. January 2025 – 31
- vii. February 2025 – 18
- viii. March 2025 – 27
- ix. April 2025 – 11

b. Number of residents discharged from Seaside since issuance of previous permit:

- i. CY2020 – 233
- ii. CY2021 – 216
- iii. CY2022 – 211
- iv. CY2023 – 290
- v. CY2024 – 307
- vi. January 2025 – 22
- vii. February 2025 – 26
- viii. March 2025 – 28
- ix. April 2025 – 13

c. Average Daily Population of Residents Housed Since Previous Permit:

- i. CY2020 – 23
- ii. CY2021 – 25
- iii. CY2022 – 30
- iv. CY2023 – 33
- v. CY2024 – 40
- vi. January 2025 – 36
- vii. February 2025 – 34
- viii. March 2025 – 30
- ix. April 2025 – 28

d. Current Number of Residents Housed

- i. As of April 17, 2025 – 29

e. Persons Who Have Left the Facility Without Authorization since Previous Permit Was Issued

- i. Total Number
  - 1. CY2020 – 0
  - 2. CY2021 – 1
  - 3. CY2022 – 0
  - 4. CY2023 – 1
  - 5. CY2024 – 3
  - 6. CY2025 – 0

- ii. Known Crimes Committed by Persons who Left Facility Without Authorization:
  1. None
2. Primary Location of Residence prior to Incarceration
  - a. Seaside primarily receives its residents from the Alaska Department of Corrections Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, who in turn receives persons arrested in surrounding villages on the Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue and Nana Regions. These villages include ones as far north as Point Hope, as far west as Kobuk, as far south as Saint Michael, and as far west as Gambell. Upon discharge 98% of these persons return to the village they were arrested in, with less than 2% returning to a village or city not in the aforementioned range.
  - b. Seaside will occasionally receive residents from other Alaska Department of Corrections facilities to facilitate their return to the community in the region.
3. Changes to the Security Plan for the Facility That Have Been Made Since the Date of the Previous Permit Was Issued
  - a. Increased Number of Designated Security Positions
  - b. Additional Security/Safety Equipment Deployed
  - c. NARCAN stations installed and carried by all staff
  - d. Security and Medical drills completed monthly
4. Points of Contact
  - a. On-site Management
    - i. Jacob "Jey" Whitson – Facility Director  
jacobr.whitson@geogroup.com – (907) 434-0471
    - ii. Bud Ward – Assistant Facility Director of Security  
bud.ward@geogroup.com – (907) 434-6535
  - b. Regional Management
    - i. Michael Collier – Senior Area Manager  
mcollier@geogroup.com – (907) 744-1506
  - c. Corporate Management
    - i. Joseph "Joe" Williams – Vice President of Residential Reentry Services  
jowilliams@geogroup.com
    - ii. Derrick Schofield – Executive Vice President of Continuum of Care and Reentry Services  
dschofield@geocareinc.com
5. Other Facilities Owned and Operated by The GEO Group
  - a. GEO Reentry of Alaska, Inc, and its parent company The GEO Group, owns and operates numerous facilities throughout the world, to include secure service sites, residential reentry centers, and day reporting centers; contracting with federal, state, county, and city agencies for the housing and supervision of their inmates.
  - b. Locally, GEO Reentry of Alaska, Inc, operates five other Community Residential Reentry Centers in Alaska in addition to the Seaside Center:

- i. Cordova Center – 130 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
  - 1. Contracts with Alaska Department of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons
- ii. Parkview Center – 831 B Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
  - 1. Contracts with Alaska Department of Corrections
- iii. Midtown Center – 2508 Margies Place, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
  - 1. Contracts with Alaska Department of Corrections
- iv. Tundra Center – 680 Ridgcrest Drive, Bethel, Alaska 99559
  - 1. Contracts with Alaska Department of Corrections
- v. Northstar Center – 3022 Parks Highway, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
  - 1. Contracts with Alaska Department of Corrections

6. American Correctional Association Accreditation

- a. Our legal team has reviewed and has concluded that Seaside Center should not be classified as a Correctional Facility, therefore we should not be held to this standard. The distinction between the ACA Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) and the standards applicable to Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) is important. ACA has a separate set of standards that apply to RRCs, the Adult Community Residential Standards (ACRS). These standards reflect that RRCs operate in non-secure environments focused on reintegration, supervision, and transitional services, rather than incarceration. The operational structure, security level, and purpose of RRCs differ significantly from those of traditional correctional institutions.
- b. While AKDOC does not require ACRS accreditation, the existence of these standards helps support our position that Seaside should not be classified as a correctional facility.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacob "Jey" Whitson  
Facility Director, Seaside Center  
The GEO Group, Inc – Reentry Services Division  
Cell: (907) 434-0471