

To: Whom it may concern

As a resident of Nome, I would like to request that the warning siren system in Nome be repaired and reinstated. There are safety applications as well as communications applications, even financial applications, and the siren system despite being damaged in a fire in 2023 is a critical part of it.

Historically, the siren was used to notify responders of certain developing situations, and the need for response

Regarding safety, in case of a catastrophic event such as storms or even a plane crash, the siren can be used to direct citizens to more information via radio stations, or simply to know that something is happening, and attention should be paid.

Nome is host to the conclusion of the Iditarod, which translates into several weeks of mushers, handlers, and tourists coming to Nome. It is a huge financial boom to the town. A large part of the experience is gathering at the finish line to greet competing mushers and the siren has been a tradition, sounded just before mushers hit the finish line, enabling fans to gather to cheer them in. All competing mushers deserve the chance to have fans cheer them on at the finish line and absent of specialized cellphone apps and computer programs, the siren has always been the way to spread the word. I have attended the finish for several years, and know from experience and speaking with fans and attendees that the siren was sorely missed, and many found it impossible to know when mushers were coming in. The people who come to Nome to participate in Iditarod both as participants and as fans, spend a great deal of money, and the siren is a small price to pay for the boon.

There are those who object to the siren as a needless disturbance that can ruin a night's sleep during Iditarod. This is but one use of the siren, and there are other important uses that make repair of the warning system necessary.

I would appreciate consideration of this request by the City of Nome, and appreciate any response and information you can provide. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or information.

Regards,

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