

Mayor's Report May 4, 2026 Assembly Meeting

1. **Little Norway Festival 2026:** Beginning next week, Petersburg will be celebrating our Norwegian heritage with many community events. A schedule can be found on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.petersburg.org. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable celebration!

2. **EMS Week Proclamation:** Governor Mike Dunleavy has proclaimed May 17 - 23 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in Alaska. EMS Week highlights the critical role these responders play in protecting public health and safety, often serving on the front lines of emergencies in our communities. The proclamation is attached.

3. **Federal Legislation – H.R. 8401:** This legislation, introduced by Congressman Begich, would amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport and sale of pelts and related products made from northern sea otters taken for lawful subsistence purposes in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. If enacted, the bill would support Alaska Native cultural practices, provide new economic opportunities through the sale of unaltered and minimally altered pelts, and help address sea otter population impacts on commercial and subsistence harvests.

4. **Retirement Announcement – Sergeant Derek Thorsen:**

The Petersburg Police Department would like to recognize and congratulate Sergeant Derek Thorsen on his retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the Petersburg community.

Throughout his career, Sgt. Thorsen has served Petersburg with professionalism, commitment, and a steady dedication to public safety. His years of service reflect a deep commitment to the people of this community, his fellow officers, and the mission of the Petersburg Police Department.

Over the past 25 years, Sgt. Thorsen has been part of countless calls, investigations, community events, and moments where Petersburg residents needed help. His experience, leadership, and service have made a lasting impact on the department and the community he served.

On behalf of the Petersburg Police Department, we thank Sgt. Thorsen for his many years of service, sacrifice, and dedication. We wish him the very best in retirement and in this next chapter of life. Congratulations, Sgt. Thorsen, and thank you for 25 years of service to Petersburg.

5. **Retirement Announcement – Chris Weiss – Library:**

Thank you to Chris Weiss who is retiring after 38 years of service to the Borough at the public library. Throughout her career, she helped guide the library through major technological changes, from the earliest days of dial-up internet to today's high-speed connectivity.

She served in many roles, including clerk, tech support specialist, and passport acceptance agent, helping connect our community to information and to the wider world. We thank Chris for her dedication, innovation, and lasting contributions, and wish her all the best in her retirement.