

January 20, 2026

Borough Assembly
12 South Nordic Drive
PO Box 329
Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Members of the Petersburg Borough Assembly,

My name is Nathan Kerr, and I am a resident of Petersburg and a student at Petersburg High School. I'm currently enrolled in American Government, where we learn that local decisions have a direct impact on safety, opportunity, and quality of life for the people who live here. I am writing to respectfully ask the Borough Assembly to revisit the Petersburg Police K-9 program during the upcoming budget sessions. This issue matters to me because illegal drug trafficking is not an abstract topic—it affects real students, families, and neighbors in a small community where we can't afford to "wait and see" while the problem grows in the community.

I understand that the Assembly previously considered this issue in February 2025, and the proposal failed on a 2-4 vote. Drugs are a serious risk to communities like ours. It harms families, drains community resources, and puts pressure on schools and public safety. When drugs enter a town the size of Petersburg, the impact spreads quickly—through friends, households, and workplaces. A trained K-9 team is a practical tool that can help deter traffickers, support investigations, and increase the chances of intercepting illegal drugs before they circulate through our community.

A key reason I believe this issue deserves a second look is that funding options have been identified. Based on the research presented, the estimated start-up cost is about \$54,000 (not including the purchase of a used or new K-9 vehicle), with a projected annual cost of approximately \$14,000, including kennel time for the handler and veterinary care. Importantly, there are specific potential funding sources already discussed, including donations from local foundations, a pledge from PIA to contribute \$14,000 toward maintenance, and the use of Narcotics Interdiction Funds—including approximately \$24,354 already seized from drug dealers—to reduce the burden on local taxpayers. Additional ongoing support may also be available through partnerships and grants such as SEACAD and Alaska's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative. This combination of sources makes the program more realistic than many people may assume.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Borough Assembly place the K-9 program back on the agenda during the upcoming budget sessions and consider a clear plan for implementation and accountability. I would also encourage the Assembly to request a brief public update on: (1) the current status of identified funding sources, (2) projected start-up and annual costs, and (3) how the program would be deployed to support Petersburg's drug interdiction efforts. I appreciate your time and your service to our community, and I hope you will reconsider this program as a proactive investment in public safety and in protecting local families—including students like me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Kerr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Kerr
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Petersburg, Alaska 99833
