



July 19, 2022

USCG Commandant Sector Juneau (we are working on where to send this letter, so the receiver and salutation will change)

To Whom it May Concern,

First, we would like to once again welcome the USCGC Pike to our community. Multiple members of the Borough Assembly and the public were able to take a tour of the new vessel and meet the individuals who now call Petersburg their homeport, and we are grateful to everyone involved for their service to our region.

In our role as the local government body, it is our responsibility to identify needs in the community and look for potential solutions with a broad cross-section of partners. One such issue is the matter of housing, and the lack of units available for individuals as well as families. This issue affects many sectors of our town, notably the Borough's attempt to hire for multiple positions that qualify as first responders. Police officers, dispatchers and the Fire and EMS Director are all positions we are either currently advertising or in the process of hiring for, and the lack of available housing has been a documented deterrent for some applicants.

With the USCGC Pike requiring fewer personnel, we are aware there are unoccupied units located in the Petersburg Borough. This letter is to pursue a formal lease agreement between our two bodies for such units with priority for Borough first responder job positions. We would like to pursue further formal conversations and give authority to the Borough Manager to negotiate on our body's behalf.

We understand if this lease option can only be considered for formal Borough-related positions regarding emergency response. However, we would like to note that the definition of "first responder" includes paramedic and fire response, which is a volunteer-dependent activity here in Petersburg. Those individuals, or their family members, fill many other essential positions in town, such as: hospital employees, teachers and other school staff, independent business owners, utility and administrative Borough staff, grocery store employees, and much more. As the COVID-19 epidemic revealed, it takes everyone to keep a community operating smoothly. Beyond negotiations for a lease agreement to help meet the immediate needs of the Borough's first responder positions, we would like to invite those with decision-making authority to consider listing excess properties for sale so that more Petersburg families can make their dream of owning a home a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We are actively exploring many avenues for meeting the housing need in our community, and this request is just one.

Sincerely,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly:

Mark Jensen, Mayor
Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Vice Mayor
Thomas Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member
David Kensinger, Assembly Member
Bob Lynn, Assembly Member
Jeff Meucci, Assembly Member
Chelsea Tremblay, Assembly Member