



CITY OF WASILLA

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 92-30

To: Council

From: Museum Director

Date: October 8, 1992

Subject: Conference, "CURRENT CULTURAL ISSUES FOR AMERICAN
(Oct 20-24) INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE
HAWAIIANS" (Polson, Montana)

Since the creation of the City of Wasilla Museum Department it has been a Department goal to establish a working relationship with the local Native Alaskan community, particularly as regards improving our Alaska Native exhibits with more artifacts and better information. It has also been a Museum Department goal to encourage the Alaska Native community to participate in activities and cultural events centered around the Page Museum and buildings in the "Old Wasilla Townsite".

After some efforts a dialogue has been started with the local native alaskan community. They very much want to be part of the development of Wasilla and have a number of ideas which could relate to museum activities and at the same time provide some income for their tribal group. They also seek a partnership in reassembling their largely scattered history and in developing a "Chief Wasilla" exhibit gallery or wing within the museum.

Max Dolchok who is the Executive Director of the Knik Tribal Council recently requested of the Mayor and the Museum Director that the City of Wasilla send a representative to the above named conference along with either himself or Knikatnu Chief Paul Theodore. As part of the process of regathering local native history, becoming better informed on the issues and mechanics of repatriation of native cultural materials from other museums, being better informed on the evolving role of museums in support of local native populations, and in learning to trust and work together for the benefit of a larger community attending this conference makes sense.

The City of Wasilla Museum Department has made an effort to include native alaskans in the life and activities of the community. They in turn have responded and have asked for a meaningful commitment on our part. I see a great deal of productive potential in our working together and request that you support my attendance at this conference, which is sponsored by the National Park Service and the "Cultural Council of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians". The portion I would attend will take 3 days and the cost will be approximately \$1,200.


John P. Cooper III
Director, Museum Department

APPROVED

DATE: 10/12/92

BY: [Signature]