

*Presented w/ Ord 98-62
11/23/98
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WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

IM No. 98-124

SUBJECT: Public Safety Funding

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: November 5, 1998

FOR AGENDA OF: November 12, 1998

SUMMARY:

With an addition to Wasilla's management team, I am reaffirming in the strongest possible terms my commitment to excellence and public safety not only today, but into the new millennium.

We are the fastest growing community in Alaska, and as the gateway to Alaska's playground and the hub of commerce for the Valley's 60,000 residents, our public safety needs have grown tremendously.

Our police chief and all the members of the Wasilla Police Department have been doing a tremendous job. Their commitment to our residents' public safety is as great or greater than my own. Every day and night WPD stands ready to serve and protect. An addition to our team will allow even greater response and implementation of pro-active measures to address our public safety concerns.

My commitment and responsibility to the community and the department is to not only support them on a daily basis, but to strategically prepare for continued growth and any major disturbances in our city, and to deal with the consequences, both positive and otherwise.

I have asked for the expertise of Walter Gilmour, retired Alaska State Trooper Major, the ex-Director of Security for Doyon Universal Services, to assist our team. Gilmour has served as the Training Director for the Department of Public Safety; the Academy Commander for both the Municipal Law Enforcement Academy and Trooper Recruits. No stranger to the Valley, Gilmour has served as the State Trooper Commander in the Valley, and is a Wasilla property owner. Most recently, as the Security Director for Doyon, he has directed a company from a mere idea in 1993 to a viable 70-person organization, providing safety and security to the oil patch both on the North Slope and in urban Alaska. Gilmour is the author of the book, "Butcher/Baker."

I will direct Gilmour to evaluate our existing services for ways to improve efficiency, ways to strengthen our department, establish a strong and active reserve program, address our increasing juvenile crime problem, establish a citizen suggestion hot line, and seek fiscal support for Wasilla in the areas of pre-trial capability and a multi-use public safety building that would include a holding cell and Dept. of Motor Vehicles. As a sworn officer, Gilmour will work with Chief Charlie Fannon to coordinate public safety services with the Troopers, emergency response personnel, and community volunteers.

Mr. Gilmour will become a regular exempt employee after approval of the requested ordinance change that will create the Public Safety Director position.

FISCAL IMPACT: No Yes, amount requested: \$ Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Introduction of Ord. 98-62 and set for Public Hearing and final action at the next regular Council Meeting November 23, 1998.



Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments: