

April 5, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am speaking in support of a new police building for the City of Bethel. The current facility has outlived its usefulness. The maintenance costs are rising, with fewer effective repairs being made. The general condition of the building has deteriorated to the point where it presents a negative impact on those that visit the police department on business. Naturally, this reflects on the city's reputation as a whole.

However, there is an additional factor which might not be as readily apparent. Police work demands that those that patrol the streets be ready to respond at a moment's notice to any situation, and our officers do just that. However, once the call is complete, they must return to a building which is unwelcoming, depressing and difficult to work in. A building which mirrors the professional attitude and up-to-date training that the officers possess would improve department morale.

We receive visitors on a regular basis, from Anchorage and from the villages. We do not have our best foot forward when they enter our outdated facility. Although our police methods are state of the art, the building does not support this. For these reasons, I urge all concerned to give the utmost consideration to the planning and construction of a modern police facility for the City of Bethel.

Thank you,

*Debbie Stonecipher*

Debbie Stonecipher

Debbie Stonecipher is the Records Clerk at Bethel Police Department, wife of Sergeant Stonecipher of Bethel Police Department, and mother of Dustin Stonecipher who is in training to be a Bethel Police Officer. - this added by John Sargent, Grant Dev. mgr.