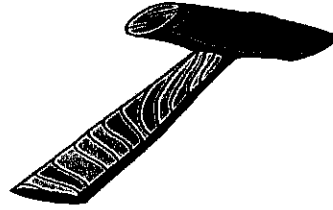


**GUARDIAN SERVICES FOR Y-K  
DELTA**

**OFFICE OF R. THOR WILLIAMS**



P.O. Box 1986  
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone: 907-543-1571  
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April 26, 2005

Karen Bitzer  
Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission  
121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 240  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Re: Written testimony for ARJLEC hearing held in Bethel, AK on April 6, 2005**

Dear Ms. Bitzer:

My name is Thor Williams. I serve my community of Bethel as an elected City Council Member and a Guardian Ad Litem. Please enter the contents of this letter into the Commission's record for the Bethel hearing held on April 6, 2005.

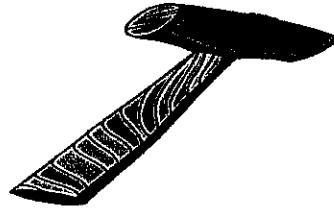
The City of Bethel desperately needs a new police station. Ours is over 30 years old, in such dire need of repair that it is more practical to invest in a new building than it is to continue to pour money into the building we have now. Our current building is four separate pieces fitted together over the years. It looks like several trailers connected in a series of after-thoughts. The outside appearance of the building reduces the ability of the Police Department personnel to command the respect they deserve from community members and their children.

The Bethel Police Department has seven police officer vacancies, representing 50% of the total number of officers we need to be fully staffed. The inability to recruit and retain qualified officers is magnified by the dilapidated condition of the Bethel Police Department. A brand new facility on the opposite side of the street over-looking the river would be ideal. This new police facility could house Alaska State Troopers, probation officers, and other law enforcement personnel.

According to Census 2000 information, the community of Bethel is 68% Alaska Native and Native American. The Bethel Police Department needs to be able to serve our 2/3 majority Yup'ik Eskimo population and the visitors from the 56 surrounding villages with the best resources possible. The City needs a new police station so that our police force can be brought up to full force and serve the 6,000 residents and 25,000 people in the surrounding 56 villages.

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Bethel is a hub community with 13 air passenger and air cargo companies operating out of the Bethel Airport. Bethel is typically the third busiest airport in the state because of the number of people coming and going and the amount of freight that moves through our town. The Bethel Police Department must respond to crimes committed by anyone who visits, relocates, or resides in Bethel. A large number of crimes are committed in Bethel by those who live in other villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area. The need for a new police station in Bethel is a regional issue. We need money to help us design and construct a new police facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thor Williams', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

R. Thor Williams  
Bethel City Council Member & Guardian Ad Litem