



RESOLUTION 2018 - 11

A RESOLUTION SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ALASKA NATIVE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES IN THE BERING STRAIT REGION OF ALASKA

REPRESENTING

Brevig Mission

Sitaisaq

Council

Diomedede

Inaliq

Elim

Niviarcaurluq

Gambell

Sivuqaq

Golovin

Chinik

King Island

Ugiuvak

Koyuk

Kuuyuk

Mary's Igloo

Qawiaraq

Nome Eskimo

Sitnasuak Inuit

Savoonga

Sivungaq

Shaktoolik

Saktuliq

Shishmaref

Qikiqtaq

Solomon

Anuutaq

St. Michael

Tacia

Stebbins

Tapraq

Teller

Tala

Unalakleet

Unalaqtiq

Wales

Kinjigin

White Mountain

Igauiuk /

Nutchirviq

WHEREAS, Kawerak, Inc. is the Alaska Native regional nonprofit consortium authorized by 20 federally recognized tribes to provide services in the Bering Strait Region of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kawerak is to advance the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region; and

WHEREAS, Kawerak advocates for justice for victims of crimes; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 survey by UAA Justice Center and the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault found that at least 51% of women in the Bering Strait Region have been physically and/or sexually abused by someone they know in their lifetime. Disclosure rates of physical and/or sexual abuse are low, so actual rates are likely much higher; and

WHEREAS, the Nome Police Department has an obligation to carry out enforcement duties, and to protect the community.

WHEREAS, the level of trust in the Nome Police Department's response to sexual assault and other violent crimes in Nome has been eroded; and

WHEREAS, a group of Alaska Native victims have reported sexual assault crimes to the Nome Police Department, and asserted to the Nome City Council that the investigation into the crimes has not been forwarded properly through the prosecution process; and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that Nome Police Department protocol, processes and procedures to carry out its responsibilities under the law regarding investigating sexual assault and violent crimes needs to be overhauled; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Nome Police Department and the criminal justice system to regain the faith of the community as it relates to the handling of sexual assault and violent crime victims; and

WHEREAS, the new Chief of Police and the interim City Manager have stated that they are open to an investigation of the Nome Police Department by a neutral 3rd party; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in support of the city of Nome's expressed commitment to justice for victims of crimes and to improve the Nome Police

KAWERAK, INC.

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Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.

Department-Kawerak calls upon the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, to exercise its authority and responsibilities under Title 42, U.S.C., Section 14141, which makes it unlawful for state or local law enforcement agencies to allow officers to engage in a pattern of conduct that deprives a person's rights protected by the Constitution or U.S laws. This law, commonly referred to as the Police Misconduct Statute, gives the Department of Justice authority to seek civil remedies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kawerak calls on our State Legislature and Administration to enact stronger laws to protect victims of sexual assault and violent crimes and to deter abuse by establishing stiffer minimum sentencing ranges and other consequences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kawerak calls upon the City of Nome, the State Department of Public Safety, and the U.S. Department of Justice to provide leadership, support and resources to the Nome Police Department to improve law enforcement and public safety; and

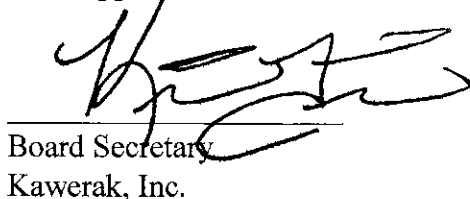
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kawerak commits to work with these entities on combined projects to improve public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kawerak reaffirms its commitment to ensuring justice and fairness for sexual assault and violent crimes victims who reside in Nome and the Region.



Frank Katchatag, Chairman
Kawerak, Inc.

I, the undersigned Secretary of Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted, by the Kawerak full Board of Directors on this day of October 12, 2018. The foregoing resolution was adopted by 21 votes for and 0 votes opposed.



Board Secretary
Kawerak, Inc.