



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

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February 23, 2015

Chief Mark T. Mew
Anchorage Police Department
4501 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1588

Dear Chief Mew:

I am writing to inform you that beginning on January 1, 2016, the Alaska State Troopers (AST) will no longer provide police services to the community of Girdwood and the surrounding areas within the Municipality of Anchorage. This was a difficult decision because of our long standing history of providing police services to Girdwood and the support of its citizens. This decision was made necessary to address staffing needs elsewhere on the Kenai Peninsula and the likelihood of continued budget and staffing reductions in the coming years. It is also generally believed that the Municipality of Anchorage should provide police services within their boundaries.

At this time, AST is still planning to provide two or three Bureau of Highway Patrol (BHP) troopers assigned to patrol the Seward Highway from the Girdwood area. They will only be authorized to provide traffic enforcement along the Seward Highway, respond to search and rescues and provide backup to your officers. AST would be willing to partner with the Anchorage Police Department to respond to accidents along the Seward Highway, especially within the Traffic Safety Corridors and take over investigative authority for serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes, if we have a BHP unit available. More formal details could be worked out before the transition actually occurs.

It's my goal to make this transition as smooth as possible. Our two agencies have had a long standing history of working together and I am hopeful this will continue. I will make available any information that you might need as you plan for the transition and will also direct my staff to work closely with your staff to ensure for a smooth transition. Again, we are only making this move because of the current fiscal realities and the need to reallocate trooper positions elsewhere on the Kenai Peninsula.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Cockrell".

Colonel James E. Cockrell
Director, Alaska State Troopers

Cc: Commissioner Gary Folger
Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec
Finance Director Kelly Howell
Major Matt Leveque, Deputy Director
Major Dennis Casanovas, Deputy Director
Captain Andy Greenstreet, "E" Detachment Commander