



P.O. Box 249
1000 Arlberg Avenue
Girdwood, Alaska 99587

September 12, 2016

Alyeska Resort Response to Current State of Policing Options in Girdwood

The Alaska State Troopers' (AST) response to the GBOS' request for a Girdwood policing proposal is disappointing. Over the years, Alyeska Resort has enjoyed a great relationship with the Troopers and very much appreciates the years of service and support they have provided to Girdwood and to the Resort. We continue to maintain that without a second option to compare to a Whittier proposal, there will be challenges to finding a good fit for the community of Girdwood. It has been and remains the goal of Alyeska Resort to advocate a path which allows for the best possible policing solution for the community of Girdwood and the hundreds of thousands of guests we host annually.

The Resort recognizes that this is a complex issue and that there will be many issues needing to be resolved as the Community moves forward with a public safety initiative. Alyeska maintains that there are still several outstanding items of concern to establish basic public service in the Whittier proposal which include but are not limited to:

1. Financial accountability for the taxpayer's money spent;
2. Minimum standards of academy certification and experience for the officers assigned to Girdwood;
3. An assurance from the State that Girdwood will not be charged additional sums for the Troopers' investigations of serious crimes; and
4. The ability to use 911 services in case of an emergency.

The inability of GBOS to successfully acquire a policing contract over the past 5 months of tax collections has made it difficult to see the efficacy of not having a plan B in this process from the outset.

It is expected that the Troopers will close the Girdwood Post and move as many as six (6) Troopers to other locations on October 1st. Due to the current lack of clarity regarding public safety in Girdwood, Alyeska Resort is being forced to reevaluate its business operating plan for the coming year. Not having a public safety partner creates an increasingly difficult situation with respect to our year round operating model. It is critical that clarity with respect to public safety be found as soon as possible.