



ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY

PRESS RELEASE

07/20/2017

Fred Dyson, Assembly Member
Dick Traini, Assembly Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Anchorage Assembly unanimously passed Resolution 2017-255 at the last regular meeting with the agreement of Mayor Berkowitz. This resolution put the Municipality of Anchorage forcefully on record requesting Governor Walker to honor the State Constitution and State Law on Victim Restitution.

Currently \$93 million dollars of Court Ordered Restitution is due to crime victims. The Alaska Legislature Set up the State Criminal Fund to provide aid to victims in the situations when the crime perpetrator was unable to pay restitution. The Criminal Fund is the repository of seized PFDs from convicted felons. Successive State Administrations have largely ignored the clear intent of Alaska Law and used these funds to support the Corrections Department budget, with only a very small portion of the funds going to victims.

"Because this Court Ordered Restitution is due to victims, the result has been thousands of Alaska crime victims are overwhelmed with medical bills, property loss, lost income, and permanent disabilities for years. The past Governors have either been ignorant or ignored this tragic issue. Governor Walker and his administration have been repeatedly informed of the travesty of justice for two and one half years and there has been NO action." Assembly Member Dyson said.

Assembly Member Dyson continued, "The Alaska Constitution and state law are very clear that we must do all we can to restore victims to a pre offence condition. Executive branch intransigence is inexcusable."

Rep. Kopp has sponsored HB 216 to clarify and enforce the Restorative Justice practice and our community encourages the Alaska legislature to pass HB 216 and give much needed relief to thousands of Alaska victims.

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