Week of December 22, 2008

Crack Down on Crime and Recycling on Mayors Agenda

**Quote of the Week**
"Outgoing Mayor Mark Begich deserves credit for getting city health care costs under control, and for the new features of the fire and police contracts."

-12/17/08
Anchorage Daily News
Editorial Regarding the city’s new wellness program outlined in union contracts.

**Partner Cracks Down on Animal Cruelty.** The Anchorage Police Department (APD) and the Anchorage Animal Care and Control Center (AACCC) Tuesday announced a joint plan to actively investigate and prosecute animal cruelty cases in Anchorage. “Research is showing more and more that there’s a direct link between domestic violence and anger vented against animals,” said APD Lt. Dave Parker. According to the Humane Society of the United States, abusive family members sometimes threaten, injure or kill pets in their efforts to be controlling. Anchorage police plan to take a harder look around at the scenes of animal cruelty cases they respond to in the hopes of catching domestic violence offenders who do not discriminate between humans and animals. To report a case of animal cruelty, please call APD at 786-8900 or AACCC dispatch at 343-8119.

**Police Crack Down on Crime in Spenard.** In response to a recent crime wave in Spenard, Anchorage Police will increase their patrol of the neighborhood, adding four officers to the area. Similar to a project launched last year to fight crime in Fairview, the officers will focus on chronic inebriates and drug dealing. In a recent meeting with the Spenard Community Council, APD urged residents to call in with any reports of disturbances and suspicious activity.

**City Urges Holiday Recycling.** Whether you have curbside recycling or visit a drop-off location, many of your holiday trappings can be recycled. Gift wrap and gift boxes can be recycled at the 5th Avenue Mall between Dec. 26 and Jan. 4. If your electronics have been upgraded for the holidays, your old ones can be reused or recycled. Total Reclaim can take care of those electronics for a small fee. Call 561-0544 or visit 12101 Industry Way, Unit #C4 (in the Huffman Business Park). Christmas trees may be delivered to any Carrs store parking lot in Anchorage, Eagle River or Palmer between Sunday, Dec. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 15. Remove all bags, ornaments, lights, and tree stands. Trees will be chipped and chips donated to local nonprofits and government agencies. More information about recycling can be found at www.muni.org/sws.

**Cracking Down on Youth Violence – Mayor Begich**
Friday met with community leaders at City Hall to discuss updates from the city’s Anti Gang and Youth Violence Policy Team.