



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Main: 907.269.4542
Fax: 907.269.4543

October 12, 2022

Re: Department of Public Safety Rural Housing Request for Proposals

To Whom it May Concern:

I am drafting this letter as an indication of the importance of our endeavor to build safe, quality housing for Department of Public Safety employees in the communities of Nome and Kotzebue. Although there are numerous communities where DPS employees are stationed in which the quality and availability of housing needs to be addressed, Nome and Kotzebue have been identified as top priorities.

Currently, in many rural communities adequate housing is either literally not available, the quality is substandard, or the price points for purchase or leasing are beyond reasonable financial means. During the previous few years there have been multiple instances in which movement of DPS staff to rural locations has been delayed or ceased due to each of these scenarios being presented.

It is no secret that the availability of quality public safety services in rural Alaska needs to be significantly expanded. It is of paramount importance to me that the DPS actively promote and facilitate that expansion. Safe, quality, and affordable housing is a cornerstone of the Department of Public Safety's ability to attract State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Court Services Officers, and other support staff to key positions in rural communities to provide their critically needed professional services.

The DPS leadership is extending our hand and inviting qualified companies to compete for the opportunity to partner with us in developing public safety housing in rural Alaska. The outcome of this effective partnership will benefit Alaskans in a deep and meaningful manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. E. Cockrell".

James Cockrell, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Public Safety