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Public Service Announcement

On May 7, 2018, the City of Nome was made aware of several citizen allegations regarding the Nome Police Department's (NPD) handling of certain cases. In response, the Nome Common Council, by resolution, directed that action be undertaken to address these claims. An NPD case audit has so far resulted in: 1) certain matters being referred to the Alaska State Troopers (AST) to ensure impartial investigation; 2) a thorough review of case reports to identify areas where improvements were needed; 3) consultation with an Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) expert in domestic violence and sexual assault reporting and training; and 4) disciplinary action in accordance with the City's policies for employee discipline.

The Council, City Administration, and NPD continue to work through these matters. On August 27, 2018, the Council approved the hire of a new Chief of Police, Robert Estes, who will take over NPD leadership on October 1st. One of his top priorities will be to evaluate and revise NPD's community policing practices to ensure that community expectations are being met. As part of this process, the City will host a free "Coffee with the Chief" event on Monday, October 1st at 5:00 PM at the Mini Convention Center as a forum for residents to informally express policing concerns.

The City appreciates the community's involvement in this process and is honestly striving to address the concerns that have been raised.

If you have any concerns about a specific interaction with NPD, please contact any of the following:

- Alaska Department of Public Safety (907) 269-5511
- Alaska Office of Victims' Rights (907) 754-3460
- Alaska Legal Services Corporation (907) 272-9431
- Alaska Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (907) 272-0352
- State of Alaska Ombudsman (907) 269-5290

Release Date: August 29, 2018