



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Main: 907.269.5511
Fax: 907.337.2059

April 21, 2016

Chief Chris Tolley
Anchorage Police Department
4501 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1599

Dear ^{Chris} ~~Chief~~ Tolley:

As you are likely aware, the residents of Girdwood recently voted to tax themselves to pay for police services for the Girdwood area. While this will fund police protection in and around Girdwood, it leaves the surrounding communities without police protection after the Alaska State Troopers (AST) pull out of that area after June 30, 2016.

To follow up on my letter to Chief Mew dated February 23, 2015, AST will not provide general law enforcement services from McHugh Creek to mile 75 of the Seward Highway. Those responsibilities will be ceded to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). During early discussions with Chief Mew and MOA officials, there was recognition that the MOA would be responsible for providing at least some level of law enforcement services to the areas in question. It now seems the MOA has decided that it will not, in fact, provide any law enforcement services to that area. The MOA can decide what level of services it will provide, but it is the AST's position that such service is the primary responsibility of the MOA.

AST will assist in a backup role or will hold a scene until the Anchorage Police Department (APD) arrives on scene. AST will also handle motor vehicle crashes (MVC) while we have a Bureau of Highway Patrol trooper on duty patrolling the Seward Highway. However, we will not call out a trooper to handle MVC's on the Seward Highway after hours. Those MVC's will need to be handled by APD.

Recent reductions in trooper positions during the last two years have forced us to make difficult decisions to safeguard other communities that are not located within a recognized municipality with police powers. After July 1, 2016, AST will be down to the level of trooper positions we had in 1990, almost 27 years ago.

Chief Chris Tolley
Page 2
April 21, 2016

It's my continued desire to make this transition as smooth as possible. We will need to discuss other issues affecting the management of the areas in questions, such as 911 call routing, dispatch coverage, search and rescues, and backup roles.

I look forward to meeting with you to iron out the details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. E. Cockrell", written in a cursive style.

Colonel James E Cockrell
Director, Alaska State Troopers

Cc: Commissioner Gary Folger
Deputy Commissioner William Comer
Director Kelly Howell, Division of Administrative Services
Captain Andrew Greenstreet, "E" Detachment Commander
Elizabeth Bakalar, Assistant Attorney General