

UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL
Unalaska, Alaska

Special Meeting
Tuesday, October 30, 2018
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Unalaska City Hall
Council Chambers
43 Raven Way

-
1. Call to order
 2. Roll call
 3. Pledge of allegiance
 4. Recognition of visitors
 5. Adoption of agenda
 6. Public testimony on agenda items
 7. Work session:
 - a. Alaska Department of Corrections, Transition to Work Program in Unalaska
 8. Regular agenda
 - a. Resolution 2018-60: A Resolution of the Unalaska City Council expressing conditional support of the State of Alaska Department of Corrections Transition to Work program in Unalaska
 9. Community Input / Announcements
 10. Adjournment

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2018-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM IN UNALASKA, ALASKA :

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Corrections has asked the City of Unalaska to support a trial transition to work program for State of Alaska prisoners that are nearing the end of their sentences and want to be prepared to reenter the work place ; and

WHEREAS, an Unalaska seafood processing plant has shown interest in participating in the transition to work program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections staff including Commission Williams have briefed the Unalaska City Council and the public twice on the program and stated that only 4 prisoners would be allotted to Unalaska for this first trial run of the program ; and

WHEREAS, staff of the Department of Corrections have briefed the Unalaska Department of Public Safety on the equipment Department of Corrections provides such as ankle bracelets and other monitoring needs; and

WHEREAS, the Unalaska Department of Public Safety is supportive of the program and has been assured that any costs to handle prisoner violations, will be covered by the State of Alaska sparing the Unalaska Public Safety Department resources ; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the community has voiced opposition to any sex offenders being placed in the community; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Williams has assured the Council and the community that all inmates will be carefully selected and near the end of their sentences and motivated to not want to return to prison system; and

WHEREAS, if the Council feels the program is not working and isn't in the best interest of Unalaska, the city will be able to opt out of the program at any time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Unalaska supports, a trial transition to work program, for four Department of Corrections prisoners, that are nearing the end of their sentences, at an Unalaska seafood plant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL THIS 30TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2018.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

TO: UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL, THOMAS THOMAS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: FRANK V KELTY, MAYOR

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2018

RE: RESOLUTION 2018-60 OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING
CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS TRIAL TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM IN
UNALASKA, ALASKA.

SUMMARY:

The State of Alaska Department of Corrections has asked the City of Unalaska to support a trial transition to work program for four State of Alaska prisoners that are nearing the end of their sentences at one of the local seafood processing plants.

PREVIOUS UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL ACTION:

City of Unalaska has no formal experience with this type of program, but the Unalaska Department of Public Safety does supervise felons on probation in the community.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Corrections has had experience, and success with placing prisoners in seafood processing plants in other fishery dependent communities. Unalaska has one seafood processing plant, which has shown interest in participating in the transition to work program with the Department of Corrections. The Unalaska City Council and the community have had two visits with Corrections Commissioner Williams and his staff, they have pointed out that they need community support before they can move forward with this trial transition to work program in Unalaska. The Commissioner pointed out the amount of return offenders to the prison system is mostly due to lack of housing, and jobs both of which are very hard to come by for convicted felons. The work available at seafood processing plants that provide housing, meals, and a paycheck goes a long way towards getting prisoners back on their feet when their sentence is finished and also provides the possibility of continued employment. The earnings that the prisoners make at these jobs, allow the State of Alaska to require payroll deductions, to cover prisoner obligations, such as child support, fines, and restitution to victims.

DISCUSSION:

The City Council and the community have voiced opposition to any sex offenders being placed in the community as well as other potentially dangerous prisoners.

Commissioner Williams has assured the Council and the community; 1) that all inmates will be carefully selected and near the end of their sentences and very motivated to not want to return to prison and; 2) if the community feels the program is not working and isn't in the best interest of the community, we are able to opt out of the program at any time. It was also pointed out at the first public meeting that there are resources located in the community that could assist this program and the prisoners involved. They include education, mental health and drug and alcohol programs. The Unalaska Department of Public Safety has voiced its support for this trial program with a start of only four prisoners.

UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:

The Council can approve Resolution 2018-60. Amend Resolution 2018-60 Vote down Resolution 2018-60. Or take no action.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unalaska Department of Public Safety has been assured by the Department of Corrections; 1) that any costs to handle prisoner violations, will be covered by the State of Alaska sparing the Unalaska Public Safety Department resources and, 2) if costs are incurred Unalaska will be reimbursed.

LEGAL:

When a formal agreement is brought forward, it will be reviewed by City Attorney Brooks Chandler.

MAYORS RECOMMENDATION:

I support the passage of Resolution 2018-60.