

**From:** pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** info@communitycouncils.org  
**Subject:** FW: From the Desk of SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS: Paying the Price for Prisons

Mark ---

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks  
PETER HAMLETT  
CPCC Chair

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From: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
To: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2011 07:15:22 -0900  
Subject: From the Desk of SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS: Paying the Price for Prisons



*Representing the neighborhoods of Airport Heights, Anchor Park, Campbell Park, College Village, Downtown, Fairview, Geneva Woods, Government Hill, Green Acres, Midtown, North Star, Rogers Park, South Addition, Tudor, Valley of the Moon, Waldron, and Woodside East*

**February 21<sup>st</sup>,  
2011**



**SENATOR**

## **PAYING THE PRICE FOR PRISONS &**

*Summer Jobs, Laptops for Foster Kids, Alaska Legislature.tv*

Friends and Neighbors,

“Last week, Gov. Sean Parnell requested more than \$8.5 million in supplemental funding for Alaska’s prison system. Those additional costs account for almost 20 percent of this year’s supplemental request from the general fund.

This shouldn’t surprise us. Alaska’s annual prison population has grown 10 percent over the past two years, and it is projected to grow

## JOHNNY ELLIS

*Working hard  
Solving problems  
Getting things done*

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<http://ellis.aksenate.org>

• [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) •

### Contact Other Elected Officials:

Senator Mark Begich,  
Anchorage Office:  
907-271-5915  
EMAIL: [Senator\\_Mark\\_Begich](mailto:Senator_Mark_Begich)

Congressman Don Young,  
Anchorage Office:  
907-271-5978  
EMAIL: [Rep\\_Don\\_Young](mailto:Rep_Don_Young)

Senator Lisa Murkowski,  
Anchorage Office:  
907-271-3735,  
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Office of the Governor  
Anchorage Office:  
907-269-7450  
EMAIL: [Office\\_of\\_the\\_Governor](mailto:Office_of_the_Governor)

### Follow me on:



another 4 percent next year. Consider this: If Alaska's prison population continues to grow at 4 percent annually and our costs per prisoner grow at a conservative 2 percent, the total expense of Alaska's prison system will grow from \$260 million to more than \$1 billion dollars annually by 2035. In that same time frame, we will be forced to build four more prisons, each the size of the new Goose Creek facility and costing the taxpayers \$250 million apiece."

Read more of my compass piece on cost-effective corrections reform recently published in the Anchorage Daily News: [As Costs Rise, Prison Reforms are Needed.](#)

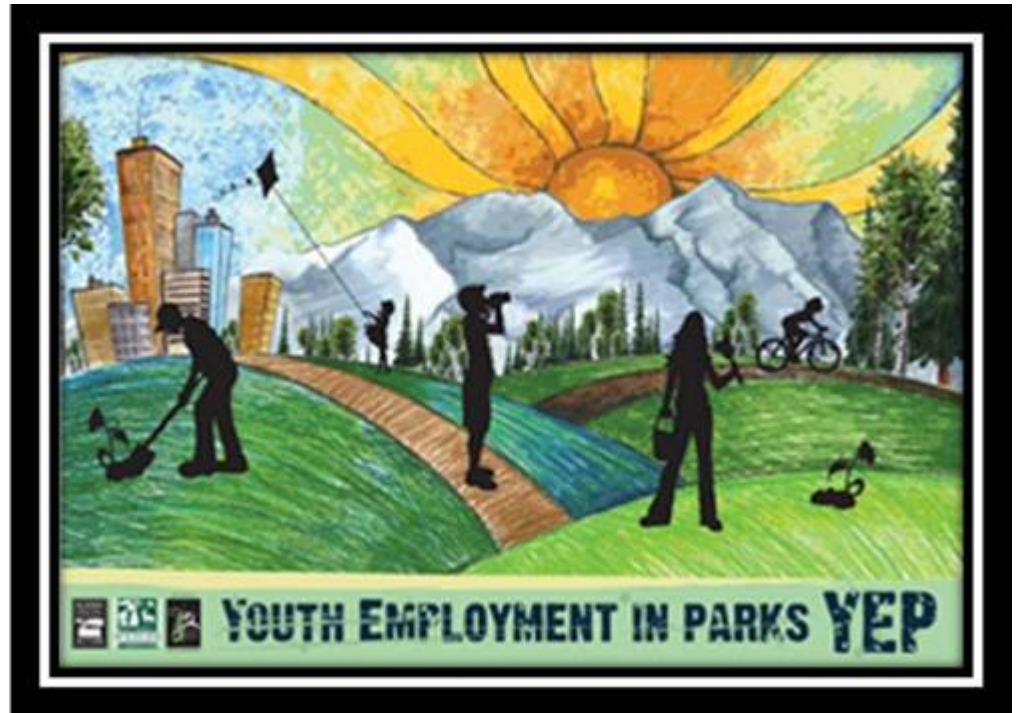


*Senator Ellis chairing a recent Joint Department of Corrections Finance Subcommittee.*

As chair of the Senate Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Corrections, I am committed to working for proven, cost-effective approaches to managing out-of-control costs while improving public safety.

## SUMMER JOBS!

This summer, the Youth Employment in the Parks (YEP) program will provide teens and young adults with a great job, environmental education experience and leadership skills. Participants will have the option of either working on park improvement projects or helping lead recreation activities. Applications will be accepted February through March 2011. For position descriptions, requirements, and applications please visit:



## LAPTOPS FOR FOSTER KIDS

Do you have an extra laptop you don't use? Rep. Les Gara (D-Anch) is working with [Facing Foster Care Alaska](#) to collect laptops for foster youth. Laptops are a critical tool to help foster youth succeed in school and stay in touch with family and friends if they are moved to different homes and schools.

If you are interested in donating a laptop, here's what they're looking for:

- Must be in excellent working condition
- No more than 4 years old
- Has a word processing program
- Isn't in need of any repairs

For more information, or to donate a laptop, please contact Rep. Les Gara's office at (907) 465.2647 at or Amanda Metivier with Facing Foster Care Alaska at (907) 230.8237.

[ALASKALEGISLATURE.TV](http://ALASKALEGISLATURE.TV)

Starting this session, all committee meetings are being streamed live

on the internet. Thanks in part to the hard work of Sen Hollis French (D-Anch) and the Legislative Affairs Agency, this service is now in available and can be found at <http://alaskalegislature.tv>. The streams begin shortly before the meeting starts, and the audio is only live when the committee gavels in. Please take a moment to check it out; this is a great way for constituents to keep track of what's going on during the legislative session.

Until next week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. This week I had the honor of presiding over the Senate. Please take a look!  
[http://gavelalaska.org/media/?media\\_id=SFLS110216A](http://gavelalaska.org/media/?media_id=SFLS110216A)

<http://ellis.aksenate.org>