info@communitycouncils.org

From: pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:29 AM

To: info@communitycouncils.org

Subject: FW: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Justice Will Prevail

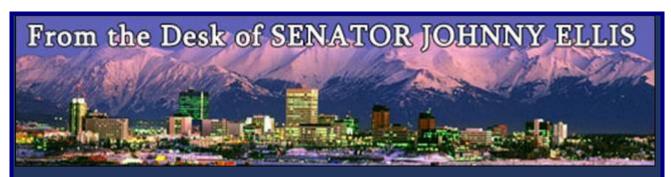
Mark ---

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks
PETER HAMLETT
CPCC Chair

From: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2011 08:04:42 -0800

Subject: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Justice Will Prevail



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

March 14, 2011



SENATOR
JOHNNY ELLIS

JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL

State of the Judiciary and Alaska's homeless

Friends and Neighbors,

This week Chief Justice Walter Carpeneti delivered his annual <u>State of the Judiciary</u> address to the Legislature, I heard testimony on the issue of Alaska's homeless in the <u>Health and Social Services</u> <u>Committee</u>, and I continued to meet with my constituents.

Working hard Solving problems Getting things done

Alaska Capitol, Room 119 Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 465-3704 fax (907) 465-2529

Sen.Johnny.Ellis@ legis.state.ak.us

http://ellis.aksenate.org

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Contact Other Elected Officials:

Senator Mark Begich, Anchorage Office: 907-271-5915 EMAIL: <u>Senator Mark Begich</u>

Congressman Don Young, Anchorage Office: 907-271-5978 EMAIL: Rep. Don Young

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Anchorage Office: 907-271-3735, EMAIL: <u>Sen. Lisa Murkowski</u>

Office of the Governor Anchorage Office: 907-269-7450 EMAIL: Office of the Governor

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<u>Senator Ellis</u> with Chris Jenkins. Chris is a senior at Stellar High School in Anchorage. He is using his spring break to volunteerintern for <u>Representative Scott Kawasaki (D-Fairbanks)</u>.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Carpeneti met with the Legislature on Wednesday to update us on the state of the Judicial Branch. Chief Justice Carpeneti emphasized the need for cooperation among the three branches of government and compared it to a "three legged chair that cannot stand if one leg is missing." The Legislature, Executive Branch, and Judiciary must work together on solutions to Alaska's challenges.

Chief Justice Carpeneti's remarks on the importance of evidence based treatment programs, for nonviolent offenders, echo my sentiment. Two-thirds of Alaskan offenders are repeat offenders. If we concentrate our efforts on these offenders we can save money and reduce crime.



Chief Justice Carpeneti delivering the State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Alaska Legislature.

Two programs were introduced in Alaska targeting these repeat offenders. Project PACE (Probationer Accountability with Certain Enforcement) and the formation of the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force aim at a successful "reintegration of offenders back into their communities".

Chief Justice Carpeneti closed his remarks inviting all Alaskan citizens to take part in government saying, "the greatest guarantee of a strong future for all three branches of government is citizenry that understands and embraces the fundamental principles of democracy". An easy way for Alaska's youth to become involved is by visiting iCivics.org. This website is designed to teach and inspire young Alaskans to become active participants in government.

ALASKA'S HOMELESS

This week members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee came face-to-face with the realities of the homeless population in Alaska. These members of our society face a greater risk due to our cold climate. Several organizations — Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homeless, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and NeighborWorks Anchorage — have taken on the responsibility of looking out for these individuals.

The best social program is one which does a good

job at taking individuals out of poverty and places them into a productive lifestyle. The above organizations have done this by investing time and effort into eradicating homelessness. In particular, The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homeless works to increase the availability of affordable housing. It provides rent based on wages rather than market rate. This method creates affordable housing for low-income families.

PAINT THE TOWN

NeighborWorks Anchorage is participating in a nationwide initiative named Paint the Town 2011 on June 3rd – June 11th. This is a "community based program to paint homes for single parents, seniors, people with disabilities, and other homeowners with a limited capacity" and is a great opportunity to give back to the community. You are able to nominate a home to be painted by clicking here. I encourage you to get involved whether by volunteering or voting.

Until next week,

Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. Stay Informed! Former-Justice Sandra Day has founded the <u>iCivics.org website</u> which ensures "every young person in this country has a real opportunity to learn about both the rights and the responsibilities of citizenship."

http://ellis.aksenate.org