

From: Dan Coffey [dancoffey@gci.net]  
Sent: Saturday, December 30, 2006 12:24 PM  
To: nss@alaska.net  
Subject: Rescue Mission

Dave:

Below please find an e mail I sent to Jeff Wooden re: the Rescue Mission. I thought you might want to share this info with the CC.

Happy New Year.

Dan

HERE IT IS.

Jeff:

I met with the Mayor yesterday and discussed this issue. We are trying to put together a comprehensive program for alcohol treatment ranging from CSP pick up, de-tox, residential treatment, 12th step work, etc. We are working with Cook Inlet Tribal Council, the State Department of Health and Social Services, the Mental Health Land Trust and others. By agreement, the MOA is the lead agency. What we want to do is develop a facility near the Highland Correctional Facility which would house (confine) the chronic inebriates and others who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction. The idea is to treat the disease. We do not want to continue the "revolving door" practices which occur now.

So....how does this relate to the Rescue Mission. First, we all know the Mission is located in the wrong place. Second, Cook Inlet Tribal Council operates the Ernie Turner residential facility at the corner of Bragaw and Tudor. If CITC participates in the new facility near Highland (as they indicate strongly that they will), then their facility at Tudor and Bragaw becomes available. That is the likely site for the relocation of the Rescue Mission.

So...what is the time frame? That is the same question I asked the Mayor. Hopefully, 2007 will see a resolution of this issue with formal plans and agreements in place. It is likely that construction of the new facility at Highland will take into 2008, but if we can get agreements in place then we will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Two other topics under discussion are (1) extending the CSP and (2) establishing "park police" to serve in Campbell Park which is the site of many problems. Both of these concepts are under active discussion, but funding is an issue. We're working on that as well.

Finally, it seems foolish to ask for your continued patience, but that is what I have to do. So long as the Mission abides by the rules (it appears that it is doing so now), the impacts from its operations (essentially the people it serves) will continue. That is why I am hopeful/working on interim solutions (CSP/park police) which will mitigate the problems until we can get a holistic solution.

The alternative is a lawsuit based on a public nuisance theory which

might have some success, but is a costly and high risk alternative to a cooperative effort to mitigate the impacts and find a solution.

I'll keep you posted.

Happy New Year.

Regards,

Dan Coffey

TO: Mike and Mark

Have I got it generally right. Please let me know if I am incorrect in any aspect of my e mail to Jeff. He, like many others, is subject to the abuses that the public inebriates and others served by the Rescue Mission bring to the area. Thanks. Dan