

Turnagain Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report

March 5, 2020

- On Saturday, Feb. 28th, I had the privilege and honor to be a part of the Second Annual Bettye Davis African American Summit. I was excited to come together with community leaders who are passionate about the fight for equality which continues today. The late Senator Davis was the first African American elected to the Alaska State Senate, a former Alaska State Representative, and Anchorage School Board Member. She was also my mentor and a friend. It was only fitting that during February’s Black History Month, we were able to immortalize the memory of the late Senator Davis with naming a room in the capital after her and continuing the legacy that she left behind.
- **Supplemental Budget**
The governor’s FY20 supplemental budget was passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday, February 26th. This supplemental budget was the largest in Alaska’s history, totaling at \$526.2 million. \$293.6 million of this is in state UGF funding, and the remaining \$225 million is federal funding. The budget primarily funds Medicaid, firefighting efforts, and earthquake relief costs. The supplemental budget also includes funding for: the Alaska Marine Highway System, the Department of Public Safety, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the Utquiagvik (formerly Barrow) DA’s office, the Adult Public Assistance program, and the Adult Preventative Dental Program.
- I want to invite everyone to join me and my staff for “Coffee with Elvi” so we can hear your priorities during this legislative session. We will be meeting at the Black Cup, 341 Benson Blvd. on March 7th, from 11-12:30 pm. Come share your thoughts, opinions and enjoy a cup of coffee with us.
- I hope you are enjoying my monthly E-newsletter. If you’re not receiving them, please send your email address to my staff at Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov.