



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Opioid Settlement: Mat-Su Borough staff will seek out community members, including the President of the Mat-Su Opioid Task Force, Michael Carson, who has agreed to join us, to create a committee to determine a prioritized opioid remediation needs assessment for the Borough. This committee will be chaired by George Hays and will meet with Mat-Su residents and providers in one or two public meetings for the purpose of creating the needs assessment. The needs within the assessment will meet the opioid settlement remediation categories, which are Primary Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Recovery. The Borough will advertise one or two public meetings within the next 30-60 days; then based on the results of those meetings, the committee will create a prioritized list of opioid remediation needs in the Mat-Su and make a recommendation to the Assembly.

After the needs assessment is complete, the Borough will advertise the Assembly approved list of needs and seek applications from Mat-Su opioid remediation organizations for potential grants. The amounts of grants would vary each year as the payments will vary significantly during the 18 years of the payments. The Borough will receive and vet the applications and disperse the grants. The recipient organizations will be required to follow up with a report on how they spent the funds.

March Assembly Meetings: There are three special Assembly meetings scheduled in March in addition to the two regular meetings.

1. March 11: Assembly Strategic Planning, Station 6-5, 680 N Seward Meridian Pkwy, Wasilla. The Manager will facilitate a discussion for updates to the Assembly's strategic plan. This will also include a more detailed discussion on community cleanup, land use regulations, and the Borough comprehensive plan.
2. March 14: Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting. Alaska Department of Transportation staff will provide updates on key DOT projects; Borough staff will provide updates on the Transportation Infrastructure Package (TIP) 21 projects and updates on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and transit as a product of the recent urban area designation from the Federal government.

3. March 28: Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting. An update will be provided by the Arctic Winter Games Host Society, a discussion on potential November ballot items, and then a presentation by District staff on their FY24 budget.

Legislature Update: Last week, Senate Finance heard a comparison of Defined Benefit (DB) vs. Defined Contribution (DC) performance and found that in actual terms DC is underperforming. If the goal is 70% salary replacement for retirement and an individual is solely utilizing one of these plans, then DC performs worse than DB in most cases. SBS or social security, plus a deferred comp plan could combine to augment DC and get retirees to that 70% goal. A Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase continues to look likely for this year at some level. The Governor's Office and DNR made strong arguments for their carbon capture, sequestration, and credits proposal. A new bill, SB 77 would allow local governments the ability to fully exempt properties for property tax purposes, to spur economic development, specifically below the 2.65 mil threshold that currently exists.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Roads

- [Borough, cities consider reexamining Knik Arm Crossing Project; urge Governor to do the same](#)
Frontiersman

Recycling

- [PKS Consulting receives award from Mid-Valley Recycling Contest](#)
KINY

Recreation

- [Night skiing, snowboarding now open at Hatcher Pass Downhill area](#)
Frontiersman

Palmer Library

- [Palmer Library to be closed for an extended amount of time](#)
Frontiersman

Arctic Winter Games

- [Hatcher Pass road repair for games may be on ice](#)
Frontiersman

Future Events:

March 11 at 10 a.m., Assembly Strategic Planning, Station 6-5, 680 N Seward Meridian Pkwy

March 23 at 10 a.m., Houston High School Ribbon Cutting