



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 10, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Alaska DPS/State Troopers Community Meeting re Chickaloon Tribal Police Department: On April 9, 2024, a Community Meeting was held at the Sutton Elementary School for the Alaska State Troopers to discuss the details wherein the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) plans to grant limited special commissions to law enforcement officers employed by the Chickaloon Tribal Police Department. Each officer will be required to be a certified State of Alaska Officer but will not be required to attend the State Trooper Academy because they have already met the requirements to become a police officer. The special commission authority will allow the Chickaloon officers to enforce certain State of Alaska criminal laws involving anyone inside a limited geographic area (approximately mile 66/Kings River to mile 88/Puritan trailhead along the Glenn Highway), see attachment. This area is identified as a Census Designated Place (CDP), which is outlined on the attached map. It will also include 11 other Chickaloon Tribal properties outside the CDP which are identified on the attached DPS information paper. Any criminal arrests will be remanded to a State of Alaska pretrial facility and will be prosecuted by a State of Alaska prosecutor in a State of Alaska court.

Captain Andrew Gorn, Alaska State Trooper B Detachment Commander, and Austin McDaniel, Alaska State Trooper Communications Director, were present to discuss the special commissions with the public. Approximately 120 Borough residents attended the 3-hour meeting and most of the attendees were not in favor of the plan. A noteworthy part of the discussion revealed that the "commission" would only be to a few Chickaloon Police Officers and not to the Chickaloon Police Department. An MOU would be made with the Chickaloon Police Department spelling out the details, but the Chickaloon Police Officers would each have to meet the same requirements as the State Troopers do individually.

During the discussion, Captain Gorn noted that the Chickaloon Tribe has also petitioned the Federal Government for some authority within Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA), outlined in the attached map, however this would be a Federal matter and would not involve the Troopers. He indicated this would only be under Public Law (PL)-280 for Alaska Native/Alaska Indian offenders and under Tribal law within the ANVSA. Finally, he mentioned that there had

been discussions about Chickaloon Tribal Police involvement in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2022, but the Alaska DPS/State Troopers are not involved in those as they are Federal laws.

Captain Gorn also specifically noted that “No traffic enforcement, traffic stops, or vehicle pursuits will be allowed” in the limited special commission. Please see the attached DPS Overview document, DPS FAQs, and the maps for the Chickaloon CDP and ANVSA.

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Daily News Minor- Fairbanks

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ADN
- [Despite public opposition, MSB passes ordinance for Citizens Library Committee to review challenged books](#)
Frontiersman
- [Former Mat-Su Assembly member gets ethics code exemption to work road contracts](#)
ADN
- [Mat-Su Borough Assembly votes to replace library advisory committee with citizens advisory committee to review challenged books](#)
Alaska News Source

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Alaska Department of Public Safety

Alaska State Troopers | Alaska Wildlife Troopers | Village Public Safety Officers
Statewide Services | Administrative Services

Chickaloon Tribal Police Department Special Commissions

Overview:

The Alaska Department of Public Safety ^{plans to} ~~has granted~~ limited special commissions to law enforcement officers employed by the Chickaloon Tribal Police Department. The special commission authority will allow their officers to enforce certain State of Alaska criminal laws involving any person inside of a limited geographic area. Any criminal arrests will be remanded to a State of Alaska pretrial facility and will be prosecuted by a State of Alaska prosecutor in a State of Alaska court.

Covered Crimes:

- Any State of Alaska Title 11 misdemeanor crime
- Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in any degree (misdemeanor or felony)
- Sex Trafficking in any degree (misdemeanor or felony)

Limited Geographic Area:

- Chickaloon Census Designated Place, approximately mile 66 – mile 88 of the Glenn Highway
- Certain Chickaloon Tribal properties outside of the Census Designated Place:
 - Larry Wade House - Saghaani Hwnax 8975 Glenn Hwy Palmer, AK
 - Transit/Transportation Łukae Hwnax 21117 East Myers Ave. Sutton, AK
 - Naggets'ł Hwnax 9255 Glenn Highway Palmer, AK
 - Debae Hwnax 9109 Glenn Highway Sutton, AK
 - C'etaan Hwnax 21117 East Myers Ave. Sutton, AK
 - C'eyiits' Hwnax Clinic 111495 North Callison St. Sutton, AK
 - Tribal Government, Justice Department, Tribal Court Ne'iine' Hwnax 16166 Glenn Highway Sutton, AK
 - Ya Ne Dah As School 9109 Glenn Highway Palmer, AK
 - Udzih Hwnax 9255 Glenn Highway Palmer, AK
 - Accounting / Administration Ggax Hwnax 9255 Glenn Highway Palmer, AK
 - Housing Hwt'aene' Ugheldze' Hwnax 17985 – 18007 All Elks Road Sutton, AK

What Is Not Allowed:

No traffic enforcement, traffic stops, or vehicle pursuits will be allowed.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Does this have anything to do with the Special Criminal Jurisdiction in the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)?

No. This is a separate authority and unrelated to any federal laws or authority that a Tribe may seek independently from the state.

Can a Chickaloon Tribal Police Officer arrest a non-Alaska Native?

Yes, if certain circumstances are met. If a covered crime is committed by any person within the limited geographic area, then the person can be arrested and will be referred to the Palmer District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

If I am arrested or charged, will my case be tried in Chickaloon Tribal Court?

No. Your criminal case will be tried in State of Alaska District Court in Palmer. The Alaska Department of Law will ultimately determine whether or not to pursue any criminal charges referred for prosecution by the Chickaloon Tribal Police Department.

Can a Chickaloon Tribal Police Officer pull me over on the Glenn Highway?

No, the Chickaloon Tribal Police Department was not granted any traffic law authority with this special commission.

If I call 911, will Chickaloon Tribal Police or the Alaska State Troopers respond?

The Alaska State Troopers will still be the primary law enforcement agency for the entire area and respond to calls for service. To request a Chickaloon Tribal Police Officer to respond, you would need to call them directly. For some emergency situations, DPS may ask the Chickaloon Tribal Police, and any other local, state, or federal law enforcement in the area, to respond and assist.

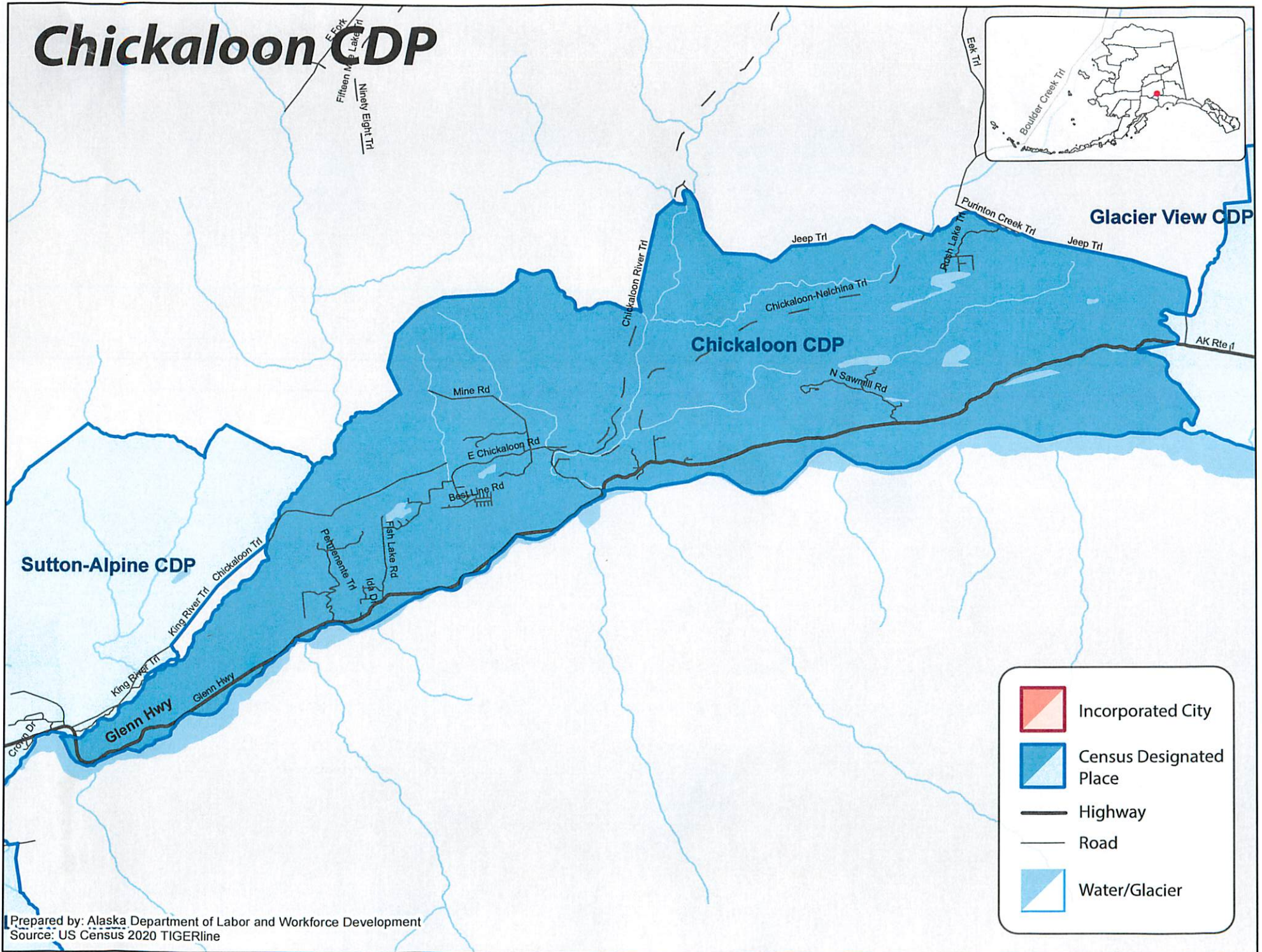
What standards do Chickaloon Tribal Police Officers have to meet to receive a special commission?

Officers must meet the same standards that all Alaska State Troopers meet, including a comprehensive background check, physical examination, and psychological examination. Officers must also receive comprehensive training recognized by DPS.

Where can I report misconduct by a Chickaloon Tribal Police Officer?

You should report any alleged misconduct to the Chickaloon Tribal Police Department. You can also report alleged misconduct involving an officer using special commission authority to the DPS Commissioner's Office by emailing dps.commissioner.office@alaska.gov.

Chickaloon CDP



Chickaloon ANVSA

Native Area in [United States](#)

26,340

Population

5,957.4 square miles

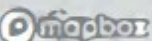
4.4 people per square mile

Census data: ACS 2022 5-year unless noted

Chickaloon ANVSA

Knik ANVSA

feedback



Find data for this place

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