NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 19-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC
BOROUGH SUPPORTING LEGISLATION BY SENATOR
MIKE SHOWER TO CREATE AN ALASKA RURAL POLICE
OFFICER PROGRAM.

WHEREAS: the Northwest Arctic Borough is a home rule government
chartered under the laws of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the Borough has established a Public Safety Department that
serves as the point for first responders for all emergencies, and works in partnership
with our residents to create a healthy and safe environment within our communities;
and

WHEREAS: in carrying out its duties, the Department is responsible for
Firefighting, Search & Rescue, the Village Public Safety Officer Program, and any
other functions incident to addressing the region’s public safety; and

WHEREAS: the Borough firmly supports a model of law enforcement
delivery that is cost efficient and carefully designed and implemented to keep rural
residents safe; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Rural Police Officer (ARPO) program has been
proposed as a model that will restructure the Department of Public Safety’s
organization to establish Rural Police Officers on the same level of authority and
jurisdiction as fully-certified municipal police officers and Alaska State Troopers
while creating a regional council governance structure that delegates authority and
administration through local governments; and

WHEREAS: the Borough would like to participate in a pilot project to roll
out the Alaska Rural Police Officer Program in order to better serve the region’s
residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Northwest Arctic Borough
supports the Alaska Rural Police Officer Program model of law enforcement delivery
that will:

1. Increase the number of fully-certified law enforcement officers in rural
   Alaska; and
2. Improve coordination between the State, Tribes, cities, and boroughs; and

3. Reduce spending, vacancy rates in existing AST & VPSO Programs, duplication of programs and services, and cost inefficiencies; and

4. Equalize authority of ARPOs, Alaska State Troopers, Wildlife Troopers, and parole authorities; and

5. Provide ARPO officers equal jurisdiction and authority with any other fully-certified peace officer (i.e., municipal police officer or Alaska State Trooper) while operating independently from the Alaska State Troopers.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

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Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly President

SIGNED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

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Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

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Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk