

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 23-47**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC
BOROUGH ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE THE FY2024-2029
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN, AND
FOR RELATED PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS: Section 12.08.005 of the Borough Code establishes the Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Commission to improve all aspects of public safety and law enforcement for the people of the Borough by identifying public safety needs, identifying available resources, and to establish and implement strategies and comprehensive plans to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS: Section 12.08.010(G) of the Borough Code provides that the Public Safety Commission shall present to the Assembly and Mayor a five-year comprehensive plan to address public safety and law enforcement issues identified by Borough residents as well as an annual report outlining a yearly strategy to implement the plan, including requests for funding of Commission activities; and

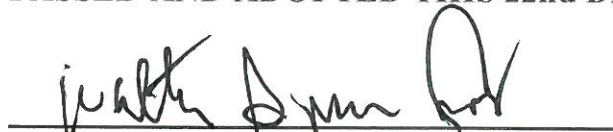
WHEREAS: the Public Safety Commission and Public Safety Department have been working diligently toward establishment of the FY2024-2029 Plan, and have conducted extensive public outreach and received meaningful resident and regional input toward completion of the plan; and

WHEREAS: on July 19, 2023, the Public Safety Commission approved the FY2024-2029 Plan and recommends Assembly approval for final adoption.

WHEREAS: the Assembly wishes to approve and adopt the FY2024-2029 Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Department Strategic Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approves and adopts the FY2024-2029 Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Department Strategic Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF AUGUST 2023.



Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly President

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF AUGUST 2023.



Dickie Moto, Sr., Mayor

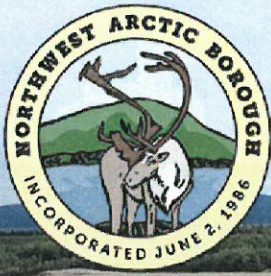
SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 22nd DAY OF AUGUST 2023.



Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk

ATTEST:





Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Department Strategic Plan, FY2024-FY2029

Draft w/Public Safety Commission Work Session Input, 07-18-23

Core Functions of the Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Department



Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission	Vision	Values		
<i>The Department's purpose and who we serve</i>	<i>Our vision for public safety</i>	<i>The Department is guided by Iñupiaq Cultural Values</i>		
<p>The Department shall work to improve all aspects of public safety for the people of the Northwest Arctic Borough by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying public safety needs• Identifying resources available• Establishing and implementing strategies to meet those needs	<p>Atautchikum <i>Together as one</i></p> <p>Safe, healthy, thriving NAB communities and families.</p>	<table><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing• Respect for others• Cooperation• Respect for Elders• Love for children• Hard work• Avoidance of conflict• Respect for nature• Spirituality</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of language• Humor• Family roles• Hunter success• Domestic skills• Humility• Knowledge of family tree• Responsibility to Tribe</td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing• Respect for others• Cooperation• Respect for Elders• Love for children• Hard work• Avoidance of conflict• Respect for nature• Spirituality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of language• Humor• Family roles• Hunter success• Domestic skills• Humility• Knowledge of family tree• Responsibility to Tribe
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Goals and Priority Strategies

NOTE: Key partners not listed as “leads”, but that will play a significant role in strategic plan implementation include the North Slope Borough and U.S. Coast Guard.

Goal A – PEOPLE & TRAINING *NAB communities have the people they need to meet health, wellness, and safety needs.*

Priority Strategy	Lead
1. Establish full time law enforcement coverage in every community.	Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) Public Safety Department with Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS)
2. Coordinate trainings for volunteer responders and community members, including incident command trainings, youth-oriented trainings, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic first aid, Toyo stove safety, boating/water safety, fire response, and firearm/hunting safety; conduct trainings in-region and in villages when possible.	NAB Public Safety Department
3. Support volunteer recruitment and succession planning for key public safety roles in each community.	NAB Public Safety Department
4. Ensure each community has at least one health practitioner.	Maniilaq Behavioral Health Services
5. Establish local cultural mentors for VPSOs and other public safety partners.	NAB Public Safety Department with Tribal administration in each village; with funding from DPS
6. Provide Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) (grief and loss support, debriefing, and burnout prevention) to first responders.	Maniilaq Behavioral Health Services

See related ongoing strategy under Goal B to train residents on equipment and infrastructure maintenance.

See related strategies under Goal C that focus on building partnerships (#1), establishing Tribal Courts (#2), and reinstating the Local Emergency Planning Committee (#3).

Goal B – INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT *NAB communities and households have the buildings and equipment needed to prepare for and respond to emergencies.*

Priority Strategy	Lead
1. Ensure there are appropriate supports in place for VPSOs in each community (e.g., sufficient housing, office space).	NAB Public Safety Department
2. Ensure all communities have working equipment for emergency medical response (e.g., ambulance, first responder supplies and equipment, storage).	Maniilaq Emergency Medical Services
3. Plan for, build, and maintain a public safety building and fire/search and rescue facility in each community, to potentially include space for equipment storage, VPSO office space, jail cell(s), and training/classroom space.	NAB Public Safety Department

Ongoing: Ensure all communities have equipment for fire response (e.g., water supply, fire equipment, compatible hoses, accessible hydrants, tanks, and storage).	NAB Public Safety Department
Ongoing: Ensure all communities are prepared to meet Search and Rescue needs, including supporting a consistent winter trail marking process for the region.	NAB Public Safety Department
Ongoing: Support residents with public safety equipment (fire, search and rescue, VPSO) and infrastructure maintenance.	NAB Public Safety Department
Ongoing: Provide home preparedness education and equipment (e.g., fire alarms, fire extinguishers, water cans, fire blankets).	NAB Public Safety Department

Goal C – PREVENTION, PLANNING, & COORDINATION

NAB communities and partners are working together to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Priority Strategy	Lead
1. Provide consistent updates to community leadership on public safety issues and progress on Public Safety Strategic Plan implementation and outcomes.	NAB Public Safety Department
2. Connect and convene partners on an ongoing basis (Tribes, State and Federal agencies, wellness providers, NANA, School District, District Attorney, telecommunication providers) around shared public safety needs and response. As part of this strategy, host an annual Public Safety Summit, rotating the host community each year.	NAB Public Safety Department
3. Establish a Tribal Court readiness initiative to help communities interested in Tribal Courts to assess their capacity and determine next steps.	Maniilaq Tribal Services
4. Reorganize and reinstate the Northwest Arctic Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to support community-level emergency planning and hazard mitigation efforts.	NAB Public Safety Department
5. Advocate for public safety reform, including adequate funding of the VPSO program.	NAB Public Safety Department
6. Ensure timely legal system follow up on prosecutable crimes.	Kotzebue District Attorney's Office
7. Address illegal importation of substances to communities, including through education around anonymous reporting tools and advocacy to increase enforcement.	NAB Public Safety Department
8. Support communities with education, signage, and other strategies to address hazards such as abandoned buildings, eroding banks, and dangerous water currents.	NAB Public Safety Department in collaboration with cities and Tribes
9. Ensure each community has updated maps to assist with search and rescue and law enforcement response.	NAB Planning Department
Ongoing: Facilitate updates of Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERPs) in each community, including establishing incident command systems and developing household emergency contact posters.	NAB Public Safety Department

Ongoing: Update Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for each community to reflect changes in facilities, personnel, and equipment; involve schools in the planning process.

NAB Public Safety
Department

See related strategy #2 under Goal A focusing on training responders and community members.

Indicators: How should we measure success? Some initial ideas:

- Increase in the number of communities with full time law enforcement presence.
- Reduction in crime rates, reduced recidivism.
- Reduction in search and rescue incidents.
- Reduction in number of fire incidents.
- Increase in positive mental health days.
- Reduction in alcohol-related incidents.
- Reduction in drug-related incidents.
- Reduction in suicide rates.

Other Strategies: What other ideas came out of the planning process?

The priority strategies above were identified based on input from NAB communities and partners. They received broad support and there are organizations in place for each strategy who can lead implementation. The following strategies were also identified through the process but were not selected as priorities.

People and Training

- Provide scholarships or other incentives for youth to enter public safety roles/occupations.
- Establish confidential volunteer safe homes in each community.
- Establish processes to conduct wellness checks in each community.
- Establish local or regional victim advocates who can help survivors navigate the justice system.
- Support school resource officer training and active shooter response training in local schools.
- Ensure VPSOs train in regionally-relevant basic survival skills, such as ATV equipment operation.
- Establish additional paid public safety positions in each community.
- Establish local or regional victim advocates who can help survivors navigate the justice system.
- Ensure there is a crisis response team in each community.

Infrastructure and Equipment

- Promote food security (e.g., community food caches, household emergency food supplies, etc.).
- Install water pumps in rivers and Kotzebue Sound for firefighting.
- Identify and help implement wildfire prevention activities in each community (e.g., fire breaks, Firewise planning around homes, etc.).

Prevention, Planning, and Coordination

- Establish fun educational opportunities and positive activities to encourage safe and healthy lifestyles (e.g., boating safety days, positive community events, wellness programs).
- Establish a consolidated library where all municipal and Tribal laws for all NAB communities can be accessed.
- Support Tribal self-governance efforts and increased federal and state recognition of Tribal sovereignty.
- Encourage vandalism prevention in communities, including education to partners who are constructing infrastructure in the region with recommendations on vandalism prevention.

Other Relevant Regional Plans

- Northwest Arctic Borough 2030: Planning for our Future (November 2021). View [here](#).
 - The NAB Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document providing direction on land use, subsistence, infrastructure, and more. Public Safety is considered in the Culture and Health chapter.
- Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) – multiple plans..
 - SCERPs are quick reference guides customized for each community that identify essential information for use before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – multiple plans.
 - EOPs are detailed plans that identify community hazards, emergency response procedures for natural and man-made disasters, evacuation plans, and more.
- Maniilaq Association Community Health Assessment (2015). View [here](#).
 - The community health assessment documents the health of the region and identifies priority strategies to make the region healthier. You can learn more about Maniilaq and their programs at their [website](#).
- Village Improvement Fund (VIF) Annual Reports. View [here](#).
 - The Village Improvement Fund (VIF) is a fund dedicated to capital projects and improvements in NAB villages. The annual report identifies priority projects for each community.

Action Planning Template: How will we make progress on our priorities?

For each priority strategy:

Action Items	Lead	Support	Resources	Timeline
<i>What are the immediate next steps to make progress on the action?</i>	<i>Who is leading this step?</i>	<i>Who needs to be involved in implementation?</i>	<i>What resources are needed? (funding, staff capacity, etc.)</i>	<i>What is our target completion date?</i>

Appendices

1. June 2022 Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Summit Strategic Planning Session Slides
2. Spring 2023 Community Visit Toolkit
3. Spring 2023 Community Visit meeting notes
4. June 2023 Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Summit Strategic Planning Session Slides