

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Borough Mayor *CP*

FROM: Kim Saner, Human Resources Director *KS*
Lisa Kosto, Senior Manager *For Lisa Kosto - RB*

DATE: March 5, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-019, Authorizing Three New Dispatcher I Positions in the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center (Mayor)

This resolution authorizes three new borough Dispatcher I positions in the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center. These positions are needed as the State of Alaska has not filled its three vacant positions in that center for over three months. This is hard on morale for the remaining employees due to the excessive overtime.

The state is working towards centralizing its 911 call taking and dispatch services to a center that is expected to provide statewide coverage for calls requiring trooper responses. Representatives of the state met with the borough administration to discuss this transition three times in 2019 but no agreement has been reached.

By recently reassigning one of their vacant positions from the Soldotna Center to Anchorage the state has made it clear it does not intend to fill that position in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. No known efforts are underway to recruit personnel to fill the remaining two positions.

If the centralized statewide facility is established elsewhere in the state, the workload at the Soldotna Communications Center is not expected to noticeably change. Calls relating to incidents in the borough will still go directly to the Soldotna center, which will transfer calls only requiring trooper response to the proposed Anchorage center. These three new positions are needed to ensure sufficient personnel are available to provide the E911 services needed by the public.

Your favorable consideration would be appreciated.