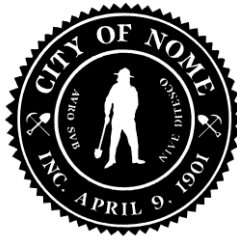


**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Common Council**  
Scot Henderson  
Maggie Miller  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Cameron Piscoya  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 at 5:30 / 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

102 Division St. ▪ P.O. Box 281 ▪ Nome, Alaska 99762 ▪ Phone (907) 443-6663 ▪ Fax (907) 443-5345

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WORK SESSION – 5:30 PM

- A. Discussion of Nome Operated Ambulance Service or Norton Sound Operated Ambulance Service,

**VERBAL**

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memorandum of February 23, 2022 from then-City Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Taxi Cab Licenses in Nome,  
**PAGE 3**
- B. Letter of November 20, 2023 from AMCO to Nome Common Council re: Retail Marijuana Store #17077 2023-2024 License Renewal Notice,  
**PAGE 8**
- C. Letter of November 20, 2023 from AMCO to Nome Common Council re: Retail Marijuana Store #11119 2023-2024 License Renewal Notice,  
**PAGE 14**
- D. Letter of November 22, 2023 from NSEDC to Mayor Handeland re: 2023 Community Benefit Share,  
**PAGE 21**
- E. Letter of November 28, 2023 from Manager Steckman to Rodney Jones re: Delinquencies,  
**PAGE 23**
- F. Letter of November 29, 2023 from Kathleen Patella to Nome Common Council re: City of Nome Warning Siren System Repaired,  
**PAGE 24**
- G. Letter of November 29, 2023 from Adam Lust to Nome Common Council re: Questions About Proposed Ambulance Service,  
**PAGE 25**
- H. Memorandum of November 29, 2023 from Special Projects Manager Bryant Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Request for Penalty & Interest Forgiveness,

**PAGE 30**

- [L.](#) Letter of December 6, 2023 from The Geo Group, Inc. to Nome Common Council re: Waiver of Penalties on 2023 Tax Bill,

**PAGE 31**

- [L.](#) Letter of December 6, 2023 from Nome Local Emergency Planning Commission Preparedness Sub Committee to Nome Common Council re: Notification Plans for Public Response to Emergencies in Nome,

**PAGE 32**

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) R-23-12-02 A Resolution Designating Charles "Chip" Leeper As Acting City Manager For December 20, 2023 to January 3, 2024,

**PAGE 35**

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 23 - December 8, 2023,

**VERBAL**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- [A.](#) Activity Report: November 23 - December 8, 2023,

**PAGE 36**

- [B.](#) December 2023 Monthly Port Projects Update,

**PAGE 38**

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 23 - December 8, 2023,

**VERBAL**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Legal, Contractual and Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Effects on City of Nome Finances,

**VERBAL**

ADJOURNMENT



## Memorandum

February 23, 2022

To: Mayor &amp; Nome Common Council

From: Bryant Hammond, Clerk

Re: Taxi Cab Licenses in Nome

Nome Code of Ordinances (NCO) 3.10.090 states that the Council shall determine from time to time the maximum number of taxicabs to be licensed for commercial purposes in the City. In 2005, the Council determined that 13 licenses shall be issued. In 2017, after hearing public testimony from Nome Checker Cab and Peters LLC (then owner of Mr. Kab), the Council determined to there was not enough demand to run 13 cabs concurrently and rescinded one license from each of the two holders through R-17-03-01. Since, there have been 11 taxicab licenses in Nome.

In January 2020, the Council approved the transfer of five licenses from Peters LLC to Kateel Enterprises LLC through R-20-01-10. In November of 2020, the City Clerk revoked the five licenses issued to Kateel Enterprises dba Mr. Kab A2B per NCO 3.10.105 for abandonment of the proper use and administration of taxicab licenses in Nome. The abandonment was evidenced by the lack of physical operation of cabs, the disconnected Mr. Kab phone number, the failure to maintain and carry insurance, and the failure to submit sales tax returns, as well as return any correspondence or phone calls to the City of Nome.

Mr. and Ms. Luce of Mr. Kab requested an appeal via email on December 14, 2020. The appeal hearing, though one reason or another, was scheduled in June of 2021. Mrs. Luce passed away very shortly before the appeal hearing. The hearing was canceled and has not been rescheduled. The Clerk's Office never received a taxicab license or a sales tax license application for 2021. Mr. Kab's state business license expired on 12/31/2020.

In the meantime, the Clerk's Office and the Manager's Office have had several inquiries from an individual asking about opening a cab business in Nome.

According to City Attorney Cacciola, since Mr. Kab did not apply for or hold a City-issued taxicab license in 2021, that Mr. Kab is not entitled to a taxicab license for 2022 (NCO 3.10.095). Mr. Luce has been notified of this code interpretation through the same email he used to appeal the revocation of taxicab licenses.

Pursuant to NCO 3.10.108, Council approval is required for the transfer of any taxicab licenses.

**Shall the City Clerk determine by lot (NCO 3.10.090(c)) the five abandoned licenses?**

**From:** [Bryant Hammond](#)  
**To:** [Glenn Steckman](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mr. Kab A2B  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:42:00 PM

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**From:** Rob Luce <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Bryant Hammond <[BHammond@nomealaska.org](mailto:BHammond@nomealaska.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mr. Kab A2B

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rob Luce <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** December 11, 2020 at 4:20:21 PM AKST  
**To:** [bhmmmond@nomealaska.org](mailto:bhmmmond@nomealaska.org)  
**Cc:** rob <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** **Mr. Kab A2B**

December 11, 2020

City Clerk Hammond  
City Manger  
Chief of police

I am responding to the letter from the City Clerk regarding the notice of taxi license revocation.

The letter states Mr. Kab A2B has abandoned the licenses, stating a list of non compliances of Nome Code of Ordinance.

We are requesting a date of appeal so that we can settle the matter and retain the taxi licenses with the City of Nome and resume business once this pandemic is under control.

Respectfully,  
Robert and Peggy Luce  
Mr. Kab A2B

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bryant Hammond](#)  
**To:** [rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Glenn Steckman](#); [Cheryl Thompson](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing on Taxicab Licenses  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 18, 2022 3:31:00 PM

---

Hi Rob,

I'm guessing by the complete lack of response that you're ready for this matter to go back to the Council. I'm queuing it up for the October 24 regular meeting.

Thank you,  
Bryant

---

**From:** Bryant Hammond  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:29 PM  
**To:** 'rob\_luce22@hotmail.com' <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Glenn Steckman <[gsteckman@nomealaska.org](mailto:gsteckman@nomealaska.org)>; Cheryl Thompson <[CThompson@nomealaska.org](mailto:CThompson@nomealaska.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing on Taxicab Licenses

Hi Rob,

I'm touching base again to discuss becoming compliant and operating Mr. Kab again. At the Council meeting you promised you would answer your email and work with us to get up and running again. As neither Glenn nor I have heard anything from you, we're going to assume that you no longer wish to operate a cab business in Nome.

We will bring this matter back to the Council at an upcoming meeting to have your licenses rescinded and awarded to someone who will use them. I don't know what else to. We can't work with someone who doesn't respond. This email chain demonstrating your unwillingness to work with us will go in the packet as evidence that we're trying, unsuccessfully, to work with you.

Thank you,  
Bryant

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**From:** Bryant Hammond <>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** 'rob\_luce22@hotmail.com' <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Glenn Steckman <[gsteckman@nomealaska.org](mailto:gsteckman@nomealaska.org)>; Cheryl Thompson <[CThompson@nomealaska.org](mailto:CThompson@nomealaska.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing on Taxicab Licenses

Hello?

---

**From:** Bryant Hammond <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:** 'rob\_luce22@hotmail.com' <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Glenn Steckman <[gsteckman@nomealaska.org](mailto:gsteckman@nomealaska.org)>; Cheryl Thompson <[CThompson@nomealaska.org](mailto:CThompson@nomealaska.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing on Taxicab Licenses

Hi Rob,

I'm following up on this. Are you ready to get Mr. Kab compliant and operating again?

Thank you,  
Bryant

---

**From:** Bryant Hammond <>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 10:47 AM  
**To:** 'rob\_luce22@hotmail.com' <[rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Glenn Steckman <[gsteckman@nomealaska.org](mailto:gsteckman@nomealaska.org)>; Cheryl Thompson <[CThompson@nomealaska.org](mailto:CThompson@nomealaska.org)>  
**Subject:** Hearing on Taxicab Licenses

Hi Rob,

When would you like to schedule the hearing concerning the Mr. Kab licenses? Sometime in the next four weeks?

Thank you,

Bryant Hammond  
City Clerk  
(907) 443-6663

[www.nomealaska.org](http://www.nomealaska.org)

Nome Code of Ordinances available at:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Nome/>

**From:** [Bryant Hammond](#)  
**To:** ["rob\\_luce22@hotmail.com"](mailto:rob_luce22@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Glenn Steckman](#)  
**Subject:** Sale Opportunity  
**Date:** Friday, January 13, 2023 4:51:00 PM

---

Hi Rob,

Miranda Musich is looking to run/start a cab company and interested in at least a few of your licenses. You can email her at Miranda Musich [miranda.musich@gmail.com](mailto:miranda.musich@gmail.com)

Bryant Hammond  
City Clerk  
(907) 443-6663

[www.nomealaska.org](http://www.nomealaska.org)

Nome Code of Ordinances available at:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Nome/>



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Main: 907.269.0350

November 20, 2023

From: [marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov) ; [amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov)

Licensee: The Grass Station, LLC

DBA: Grass Station 49

VIA email: [gary@grasstation49.com](mailto:gary@grasstation49.com)

Local Government: Nome

Via Email: [bhammond@nomealaska.org](mailto:bhammond@nomealaska.org); [clerksoffice@nomealaska.org](mailto:clerksoffice@nomealaska.org); [nulatoclerk@gmail.com](mailto:nulatoclerk@gmail.com)

Community Council:

Via Email:

Re: Retail Marijuana Store #17077 2023-2024 Combined Renewal Notice

<b>License Number:</b>	#17077
<b>License Type:</b>	Retail Marijuana Store
<b>Licensee:</b>	The Grass Station, LLC
<b>Doing Business As:</b>	Grass Station 49
<b>Physical Address:</b>	223 Front Street, Suite B Nome, AK 99762
<b>Designated Licensee:</b>	Gary Evans
<b>Phone Number:</b>	907-460-0398
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:gary@grasstation49.com">gary@grasstation49.com</a>

License Renewal Application

Endorsement Renewal Application

**Dear Licensee:**

After reviewing your renewal documents, AMCO staff has deemed the application complete for the purposes of 3 AAC 306.035(c).

Your application will now be sent electronically, in its entirety, to your local government, your community council (if your proposed premises is in Anchorage or certain locations in the Mat-Su Borough), and to any non-profit agencies who have requested notification of applications. The local government has 60 days to protest your application per 3 AAC 306.060.



At the May 15, 2017 Marijuana Control Board meeting, the board delegated to AMCO Director the authority to approve renewal applications. However, the board is required to consider this application independently if you have been issued any notices of violation for this license, if your local government protests this application, or if a public objection to this application is received within 30 days of this notice under 3 AAC 306.065.

If AMCO staff determines that your application requires independent board consideration for any reason, you will be sent an email notification regarding your mandatory board appearance. Upon final approval, your 2023/2024 license will be provided to you during your annual inspection. If our office determines that an inspection is not necessary, the license will be mailed to you at the mailing address on file for your establishment.

Please feel free to contact us through the [marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov) email address if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan M. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan M. Wilson, Director  
907-269-0350



Alaska Marijuana Control Board

# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board Item B.  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1000  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>  
Phone: 907.269.0350

## Why is this form needed?

This renewal application certifications form is required for all marijuana establishment license renewal applications. Each person signing an application for a marijuana establishment license must declare that he/she has read and is familiar with AS 17.38 and 3 AAC 306. A person other than a licensee may not have direct or indirect financial interest (as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1)) in the business for which a marijuana establishment license is issued, per 3 AAC 306.015(a).

This form must be completed and submitted to AMCO's Anchorage office by each licensee (as defined in 3 AAC 306.020(b)(2)) before any license renewal application will be considered complete.

### Section 1 – Establishment Information

Enter information for the licensed establishment, as identified on the license application.

Licensee:	THE GRASS STATION,LLC	License Number:	17077		
License Type:	RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE				
Doing Business As:	GRASS STATION 49				
Premises Address:	223 FRONT STREET, SUITE B.				
City:	NOME	State:	AK	ZIP:	99762

### Section 2 – Individual Information

Enter information for the individual licensee who is completing this form.

Name:	GARY EVANS				
Title:	MEMBER				

### Section 3 – Violations & Charges

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of any applicable statements:

Initials

I certify that I have **not** been convicted of any criminal charge in the previous two calendar years.

I certify that I have **not** committed any civil violation of AS 04, AS 17.38, or 3 AAC 306 in the previous two calendar years.

I certify that a notice of violation has **not** been issued for this license between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Sign your initials to the following statement only if you are unable to certify one or more of the above statements:

Initials

I have attached a written explanation for why I cannot certify one or more of the above statements, which includes the type of violation or offense, as required under 3 AAC 306.035(b).



# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

## Section 5 – Certifications

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of each statement:

Initials

I certify that no person other than a licensee listed on my marijuana establishment license renewal application has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1), in the business for which the marijuana establishment license has been issued.

I certify that I meet the residency requirement under AS 43.23 or I have submitted a residency exception affidavit (MJ-20a) along with this application.

I certify that this establishment complies with any applicable health, fire, safety, or tax statute, ordinance, regulation, or other law in the state.

I certify that the license is operated in accordance with the operating plan currently approved by the Marijuana Control Board.

I certify that I am operating in compliance with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's laws and requirements pertaining to employees.

I certify that I have not violated any restrictions pertaining to this particular license type, and that this license has not been operated in violation of a condition or restriction imposed by the Marijuana Control Board.

**Initial this box if you are submitting an original fingerprint card and the applicable fees to AMCO for AMCO to obtain criminal justice information and a national criminal history record required by AS 17.38.200 and 3 AAC 306.035(d). If I have multiple marijuana licenses being renewed, I understand one fingerprint card and fee will suffice for all marijuana licenses being renewed.**

If multiple licenses are held, list all license numbers below:

10869,12956,17077

I hereby certify that I am the person herein named and subscribing to this application and that I have read the complete application, and I know the full content thereof. I declare that all of the information contained herein, and evidence or other documents submitted are true and correct. I understand that any falsification or misrepresentation of any item or response in this application, or any attachment, or documents to support this application, is sufficient grounds for denying or revoking a license/permit. I further understand that it is a Class A misdemeanor under Alaska Statute 11.56.210 to falsify an application and commit the crime of unsworn falsification.

GARY EVANS

Printed name of licensee

Signature of licensee



Alaska Marijuana Control Board

# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board Item B.  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov)  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>  
Phone: 907.269.0350

## Why is this form needed?

This renewal application certifications form is required for all marijuana establishment license renewal applications. Each person signing an application for a marijuana establishment license must declare that he/she has read and is familiar with AS 17.38 and 3 AAC 306. A person other than a licensee may not have direct or indirect financial interest (as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1)) in the business for which a marijuana establishment license is issued, per 3 AAC 306.015(a).

**This form must be completed and submitted to AMCO's Anchorage office by each licensee (as defined in 3 AAC 306.020(b)(2)) before any license renewal application will be considered complete.**

## Section 1 – Establishment Information

Enter information for the licensed establishment, as identified on the license application.

Licensee:	THE GRASS STATION,LLC	License Number:	17077		
License Type:	RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE				
Doing Business As:	GRASS STATION 49				
Premises Address:	223 FRONT STREET, SUITE B.				
City:	NOME	State:	AK	ZIP:	99762

## Section 2 – Individual Information

Enter information for the individual licensee who is completing this form.

Name:	MASON EVANS				
Title:	MEMBER				

## Section 3 – Violations & Charges

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of any applicable statements:

Initials

I certify that I have **not** been convicted of any criminal charge in the previous two calendar years.

I certify that I have **not** committed any civil violation of AS 04, AS 17.38, or 3 AAC 306 in the previous two calendar years.

I certify that a notice of violation has **not** been issued for this license between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

**Sign your initials to the following statement only if you are unable to certify one or more of the above statements:**

Initials

I have attached a written explanation for why I cannot certify one or more of the above statements, which includes the type of violation or offense, as required under 3 AAC 306.035(b).



# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

## Section 5 – Certifications

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of each statement:

Initials

I certify that no person other than a licensee listed on my marijuana establishment license renewal application has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1), in the business for which the marijuana establishment license has been issued.

ME

I certify that I meet the residency requirement under AS 43.23 or I have submitted a residency exception affidavit (MJ-20a) along with this application.

ME

I certify that this establishment complies with any applicable health, fire, safety, or tax statute, ordinance, regulation, or other law in the state.

ME

I certify that the license is operated in accordance with the operating plan currently approved by the Marijuana Control Board.

ME

I certify that I am operating in compliance with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's laws and requirements pertaining to employees.

ME

I certify that I have not violated any restrictions pertaining to this particular license type, and that this license has not been operated in violation of a condition or restriction imposed by the Marijuana Control Board.

ME

**Initial this box if you are submitting an original fingerprint card and the applicable fees to AMCO for AMCO to obtain criminal justice information and a national criminal history record required by AS 17.38.200 and 3 AAC 306.035(d).** If I have multiple marijuana licenses being renewed, I understand one fingerprint card and fee will suffice for all marijuana licenses being renewed.

If multiple licenses are held, list all license numbers below:

10869,12956,17077

I hereby certify that I am the person herein named and subscribing to this application and that I have read the complete application, and I know the full content thereof. I declare that all of the information contained herein, and evidence or other documents submitted are true and correct. I understand that any falsification or misrepresentation of any item or response in this application, or any attachment, or documents to support this application, is sufficient grounds for denying or revoking a license/permit. I further understand that it is a Class A misdemeanor under Alaska Statute 11.56.210 to falsify an application and commit the crime of unsworn falsification.

ME

MASON EVANS

Printed name of licensee

Signature of licensee



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Main: 907.269.0350

November 20, 2023

From: [marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov) ; [amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov)

Licensee: Rural Retail Northwest, LLC

DBA: Alaskan Grown Cannabis

VIA email: [kalla@akgrowncannabis.com](mailto:kalla@akgrowncannabis.com)

Local Government: City of Nome

Via Email: [bhammond@nomealaska.org](mailto:bhammond@nomealaska.org); [clerksoffice@nomealaska.org](mailto:clerksoffice@nomealaska.org); [nulatoclerk@gmail.com](mailto:nulatoclerk@gmail.com)

Community Council:

Via Email:

Re: Retail Marijuana Store #11119 2023-2024 Combined Renewal Notice

<b>License Number:</b>	#11119
<b>License Type:</b>	Retail Marijuana Store
<b>Licensee:</b>	Rural Retail Northwest, LLC
<b>Doing Business As:</b>	Alaskan Grown Cannabis
<b>Physical Address:</b>	303- C West E. Street Nome, AK 99762
<b>Designated Licensee:</b>	Kalla Peacock
<b>Phone Number:</b>	907-350-7893
<b>Email Address:</b>	kalla@akgrowncannabis.com

License Renewal Application

Endorsement Renewal Application

**Dear Licensee:**

After reviewing your renewal documents, AMCO staff has deemed the application complete for the purposes of 3 AAC 306.035(c).

Your application will now be sent electronically, in its entirety, to your local government, your community council (if your proposed premises is in Anchorage or certain locations in the Mat-Su Borough), and to any non-profit agencies who have requested notification of applications. The local government has 60 days to protest your application per 3 AAC 306.060.

At the May 15, 2017 Marijuana Control Board meeting, the board delegated to AMCO Director the authority to approve renewal applications. However, the board is required to consider this application independently if you have been issued any notices of violation for this license, if your local government protests this application, or if a public objection to this application is received within 30 days of this notice under 3 AAC 306.065.

If AMCO staff determines that your application requires independent board consideration for any reason, you will be sent an email notification regarding your mandatory board appearance. Upon final approval, your 2023/2024 license will be provided to you during your annual inspection. If our office determines that an inspection is not necessary, the license will be mailed to you at the mailing address on file for your establishment.

Please feel free to contact us through the [marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov) email address if you have any questions.

**Dear Local Government:**

AMCO has received a complete renewal application and/or endorsement renewal application for a marijuana establishment within your jurisdiction. This notice is required under 3 AAC 306.035(c)(2). Application documents will be sent to you separately via ZendTo.

To protest the approval of this application pursuant to 3 AAC 306.060, you must furnish the director **and** the applicant with a clear and concise written statement of reasons for the protest within 60 days of the date of this notice, and provide AMCO proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.

3 AAC 306.060 states that the board will uphold a local government protest and deny an application for a marijuana establishment license unless the board finds that a protest by a local government is arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable. If the protest is a “conditional protest” as defined in 3 AAC 306.060(d)(2) and the application otherwise meets all the criteria set forth by the regulations, the Marijuana Control Board may approve the license renewal, but require the applicant to show to the board’s satisfaction that the requirements of the local government have been met before the director issues the license.

At the May 15, 2017, Marijuana Control Board meeting, the board delegated to AMCO Director the authority to approve renewal applications with no protests, objections, or notices of violation. However, if a timely protest or objection is filed for this application, or if any notices of violation have been issued for this license, the board will consider the application. In those situations, a temporary license will be issued pending board consideration.

If you have any questions, please email [amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.localgovernmentonly@alaska.gov).

**Dear Community Council (Municipality of Anchorage and Mat-Su Borough only)**

AMCO has received a complete renewal application for the above listed license within your jurisdiction. This notice is required under 3 AAC 306.035(c)(2). Application documents will be sent to you separately via ZendTo.

To object to the approval of this application pursuant to 3 AAC 306.065, you must furnish the director **and** the applicant with a clear and concise written statement of reasons for the objection within 30 days of the date of this notice. We recommend that you contact the local government with jurisdiction over the proposed premises to share objections you may have about the application.

At the May 15, 2017, Marijuana Control Board meeting, the board delegated to AMCO Director the authority to approve renewal applications with no protests, objections, or notices of violation. However, if a timely protest or objection is filed for this application, or if any notices of violation have been issued for

this license, the board will consider the application independently. In those situations, a temporary license will be issued pending board consideration.

If you have any questions, please email [marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan M. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan M. Wilson, Director  
907-269-0350





Alaska Marijuana Control Board

[marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov)  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>  
 Phone: 907.269.0350

Item C.

# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

## Why is this form needed?

This renewal application certifications form is required for all marijuana establishment license renewal applications. Each person signing an application for a marijuana establishment license must declare that he/she has read and is familiar with AS 17.38 and 3 AAC 306. A person other than a licensee may not have direct or indirect financial interest (as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1)) in the business for which a marijuana establishment license is issued, per 3 AAC 306.015(a).

**This form must be completed and submitted to AMCO's Anchorage office by each licensee (as defined in 3 AAC 306.020(b)(2)) before any license renewal application will be considered complete.**

## Section 1 – Establishment Information

Enter information for the licensed establishment, as identified on the license application.

Licensee:	Rural Retail Northwest, LLC	License Number:	11119		
License Type:	Retail Marijuana Store				
Doing Business As:	Alaskan Grown Cannabis				
Premises Address:	303-C West E. Street				
City:	Nome	State:	Alaska	ZIP:	99762

## Section 2 – Individual Information

Enter information for the individual licensee who is completing this form.

Name:	Kalla Peacock				
Title:	Manager/Member				

## Section 3 – Violations & Charges

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of any applicable statements:

Initials

I certify that I have **not** been convicted of any criminal charge in the previous two calendar years.

DS kp
----------

I certify that I have **not** committed any civil violation of AS 04, AS 17.38, or 3 AAC 306 in the previous two calendar years.

DS kp
----------

I certify that a notice of violation has **not** been issued for this license between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

DS kp
----------

**Sign your initials to the following statement only if you are unable to certify one or more of the above statements:**

Initials

**I have attached a written explanation** for why I cannot certify one or more of the above statements, which includes the type of violation or offense, as required under 3 AAC 306.035(b).

--



# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

Item C.

## Section 5 – Certifications

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of each statement:

Initials

I certify that no person other than a licensee listed on my marijuana establishment license renewal application has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1), in the business for which the marijuana establishment license has been issued.

DS  
kp

I certify that I meet the residency requirement under AS 43.23 or I have submitted a residency exception affidavit (MJ-20a) along with this application.

DS  
kp

I certify that this establishment complies with any applicable health, fire, safety, or tax statute, ordinance, regulation, or other law in the state.

DS  
kp

I certify that the license is operated in accordance with the operating plan currently approved by the Marijuana Control Board.

DS  
kp

I certify that I am operating in compliance with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's laws and requirements pertaining to employees.

DS  
kp

I certify that I have not violated any restrictions pertaining to this particular license type, and that this license has not been operated in violation of a condition or restriction imposed by the Marijuana Control Board.

DS  
kp

**Initial this box if you are submitting an original fingerprint card and the applicable fees to AMCO for AMCO to obtain criminal justice information and a national criminal history record required by AS 17.38.200 and 3 AAC 306.035(d).** If I have multiple marijuana licenses being renewed, I understand one fingerprint card and fee will suffice for all marijuana licenses being renewed.

[Empty box]

If multiple licenses are held, list all license numbers below:

[Empty box for listing license numbers]

I hereby certify that I am the person herein named and subscribing to this application and that I have read the complete application, and I know the full content thereof. I declare that all of the information contained herein, and evidence or other documents submitted are true and correct. I understand that any falsification or misrepresentation of any item or response in this application, or any attachment, or documents to support this application, is sufficient grounds for denying or revoking a license/permit. I further understand that it is a Class A misdemeanor under Alaska Statute 11.56.210 to falsify an application and commit the crime of unsworn falsification.

DS  
kp

Kalla Peacock

Printed name of licensee

DocuSigned by:

Kalla Peacock

30E61D12E4824D4...

Signature of licensee



Alaska Marijuana Control Board

[marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov)

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>

Phone: 907.269.0350

# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

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License Type:	Retail Marijuana Store				
Doing Business As:	Alaskan Grown Cannabis				
Premises Address:	303-C West E. Street				
City:	Nome	State:	Alaska	ZIP:	99762

## Section 2 – Individual Information

Enter information for the individual licensee who is completing this form.

Name:	Jason Evans				
Title:	Manager/Member				

## Section 3 – Violations & Charges

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of any applicable statements:

Initials

I certify that I have **not** been convicted of any criminal charge in the previous two calendar years.

DS  
JE

I certify that I have **not** committed any civil violation of AS 04, AS 17.38, or 3 AAC 306 in the previous two calendar years.

DS  
JE

I certify that a notice of violation has **not** been issued for this license between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

DS  
JE

Sign your initials to the following statement **only if you are unable to certify one or more of the above statements**:

Initials

I have attached a written explanation for why I cannot certify one or more of the above statements, which includes the type of violation or offense, as required under 3 AAC 306.035(b).

[Empty box for initials]



# Form MJ-20: 2023-2024 Renewal Application Certifications

Item C.

## Section 5 – Certifications

Read each line below, and then sign your initials in the box to the right of each statement:

Initials

I certify that no person other than a licensee listed on my marijuana establishment license renewal application has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined in 3 AAC 306.015(e)(1), in the business for which the marijuana establishment license has been issued.

DS  
JE

I certify that I meet the residency requirement under AS 43.23 or I have submitted a residency exception affidavit (MJ-20a) along with this application.

DS  
JE

I certify that this establishment complies with any applicable health, fire, safety, or tax statute, ordinance, regulation, or other law in the state.

DS  
JE

I certify that the license is operated in accordance with the operating plan currently approved by the Marijuana Control Board.

DS  
JE

I certify that I am operating in compliance with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's laws and requirements pertaining to employees.

DS  
JE

I certify that I have not violated any restrictions pertaining to this particular license type, and that this license has not been operated in violation of a condition or restriction imposed by the Marijuana Control Board.

DS  
JE

**Initial this box if you are submitting an original fingerprint card and the applicable fees to AMCO for AMCO to obtain criminal justice information and a national criminal history record required by AS 17.38.200 and 3 AAC 306.035(d).** If I have multiple marijuana licenses being renewed, I understand one fingerprint card and fee will suffice for all marijuana licenses being renewed.

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DS  
JE

Jason Evans

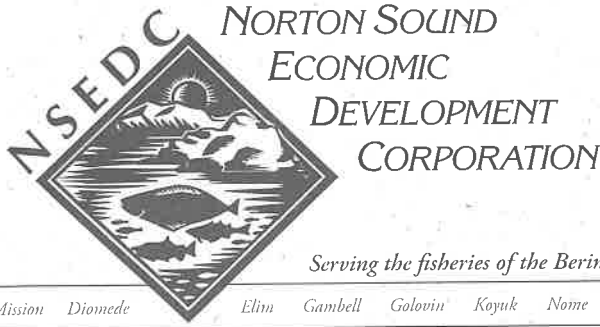
Printed name of licensee

DocuSigned by:

Jason Evans

22F82D3771AE488...

Signature of licensee



*Serving the fisheries of the Bering Strait Region*

*Brevig Mission Diomedes Elim Gambell Golovin Koyuk Nome Saint Michael Savoonga Shaktoolik Stebbins Teller Unalakleet Wales White Mountain*

GS  
A  
11/27/23

November 22, 2023

Mr. John Handeland, Mayor  
City of Nome  
P.O. Box 281  
Nome, AK 99762

Re: 2023 NSEDc Community Benefit Share

Dear Mayor John Handeland,

On behalf of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDc) Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce a 2023 Community Benefit Share (CBS) distribution of \$150,000 for each NSEDc member community. NSEDc continues to express our firm commitment to our member communities through the CBS which provides financial support to address your community's highest priorities.

The NSEDc board and staff are aware of the need to ensure accountability of not only how NSEDc funds are spent, but also the process by which the use of those funds is determined. I stress the importance of—and my appreciation for—your proactive approach to help ensure that all residents of your community are aware of the decision-making process for the use of the funds.

Please note that the City of Nome (City) has the following CBS balances available for use:

Community	2021	2022	2023	Total
Nome	\$62,457	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$312,457

As in prior years, NSEDc requires an audit of the expenditure of previously issued CBS funds. This requires the municipality to provide financials, copies of invoices and checks, or other information which documents the procurement of items or services for the CBS disbursement. By accepting the CBS, your community acknowledges and agrees to comply with the audit requirement of the funding. Disbursement of 2023 CBS funding cannot occur until audits are complete for prior years' distributions. NSEDc's Community Benefits Department can assist you if you have questions regarding the audit.

With an emphasis on self-governance and accountability, NSEDc requires that the following guidelines be met in order to access the funds:

1. The City must go through a public process at the municipal level to determine the highest priorities and best uses for the funds. The public process can be a regularly scheduled city council meeting or a special community meeting to address the best use of the CBS.
2. The City must report to NSEDC on how the funds will be utilized by submitting a letter, budget, and the city council meeting minutes from the session at which CBS funds are approved.
3. The City must provide an audit with copies of invoices and checks, or other information which documents the procurement of items or services outlined in your prior years' declarations.
4. The City must expend, and have audited, all prior years' CBS funds before accessing funding from the 2023 CBS.
5. **Please note that NSEDC will only be disbursing CBS funds as direct-vendor payments or reimbursements until further notice.**

Please submit all documents noted in item number 2 above by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to Amanda Patrick, Community Benefits Coordinator at [amandap@nsedc.com](mailto:amandap@nsedc.com) or fax the documents to (907) 624-3193. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Ivanoff, Community Benefits Director, at (800) 385-3190 or by email at [pivanoff@nsedc.com](mailto:pivanoff@nsedc.com).

Sincerely,



Janis Ivanoff  
President & CEO

cc: Nome City Council  
James T. Sherman, NSEDC Board Member



November 28, 2023

Rodney Jones  
PO Box 1022  
Nome, AK 99762

Mr. Jones,

I am following up on comments you made at the regular meeting of the Nome Common Council on November 13, 2023 regarding Checker Cab's taxes. We have reviewed our records and have found the following accounts delinquent:

11051 - RJ's Auto (new) - no tax payment made since May 2021; no license payment since January 2023

10280 - RJs Auto (Promissory Note) - no payment made since April 2021. \$1,883.69 remaining

50245 - RJs Auto personal property - no payments made since 2022. \$132.42 remaining

50195 - Nome Checker Cab - no payments made since 2022. \$115.15 remaining

11052 - Nome Checker Cab - no tax payments made since May 2021; last license payment December 2022

10220 - Nome Checker Cab (Promissory Note) - no payments since April 2021. \$1,554.32

From my perspective, the statement that you are working with the City to catch up on your financial obligations is false.

We take great care to ensure the Council is given accurate information with which to make decisions. Please schedule a meeting with my office to discuss your shortcomings in tax payments in the next 30 days. Failure to do so will result in enforcement actions through Superior Court.

Thank you,

Glenn Steckman  
City Manager

To: Whom it may concern

As a resident of Nome, I would like to request that the warning siren system in Nome be repaired and reinstated. There are safety applications as well as communications applications, even financial applications, and the siren system despite being damaged in a fire in 2023 is a critical part of it.

Historically, the siren was used to notify responders of certain developing situations, and the need for response

Regarding safety, in case of a catastrophic event such as storms or even a plane crash, the siren can be used to direct citizens to more information via radio stations, or simply to know that something is happening, and attention should be paid.

Nome is host to the conclusion of the Iditarod, which translates into several weeks of mushers, handlers, and tourists coming to Nome. It is a huge financial boom to the town. A large part of the experience is gathering at the finish line to greet competing mushers and the siren has been a tradition, sounded just before mushers hit the finish line, enabling fans to gather to cheer them in. All competing mushers deserve the chance to have fans cheer them on at the finish line and absent of specialized cellphone apps and computer programs, the siren has always been the way to spread the word. I have attended the finish for several years, and know from experience and speaking with fans and attendees that the siren was sorely missed, and many found it impossible to know when mushers were coming in. The people who come to Nome to participate in Iditarod both as participants and as fans, spend a great deal of money, and the siren is a small price to pay for the boon.

There are those who object to the siren as a needless disturbance that can ruin a night's sleep during Iditarod. This is but one use of the siren, and there are other important uses that make repair of the warning system necessary.

I would appreciate consideration of this request by the City of Nome, and appreciate any response and information you can provide. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or information.

Regards,

Kathleen Patella

907-443-6465

[treesndirt@gmail.com](mailto:treesndirt@gmail.com)

PO Box 1127

Nome, AK



**From:** [Glenn Steckman](#)  
**To:** [Bryant Hammond](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Questions about proposed ambulance service  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:42:29 AM

---

**From:** Adam Lust <adamlust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:11 PM  
**To:** Mark Johnson <MJohnson@nomealaska.org>; Doug Johnson <DJohnson@nomealaska.org>; Adam Martinson <AMartinson@nomealaska.org>; Scot Henderson <SHenderson@nomealaska.org>; Meghan Topkok <MTopkok@nomealaska.org>; Cameron Piscoya <CPiscoya@nomealaska.org>  
**Cc:** Glenn Steckman <GSteckman@nomealaska.org>; John Handeland <JHandeland@nomealaska.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Questions about proposed ambulance service

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear City Council,

For those that don't know me, I think government can be a force for good and that good governance leads to growing and vibrant communities. In that vein, when I hear about potential changes to services in the community I want to fully understand and grasp those issues and troubleshoot unforeseen ramifications and other second order effects that may not be apparent at first glance. And that's why I reached out to NSHC asking for some very basic information on the proposed ambulance service. That correspondence is below.

On its face, to think that our local hospital management, (which has been advocating to run ambulance service for several years now) does not have a good idea of what their cost structure would look like or what sort of revenue they could potentially generate is pure gaslighting.

This is especially perplexing to me because if NSHC does take over the cost will not remain secret for long. So why not be straight up front with members of the community during the decision-making process?

We should all take the stance that a non-profit health organization with an annual budget of over 200 million dollars that won't even disclose the cost of services beforehand to help guide the decision-making process shouldn't be taken as a serious contender at all. Their take it or leave it stance should set off alarms.

Nomeites expect services to be on point, but also accessible and affordable for everyone who lives here. That's why when formulating public policy, it's important for the City Council to ensure protections for those in minority groups. In this instance I have a great deal of concern about the financial ramifications for families who do not have Blue Cross Blue Shield (the only in network insurance accepted by the hospital) or have IHS, Medicaid or Medicare as payers of last resort.

(Think local families, teachers, tourists, cruise ship passengers, seasonal contract workers, etc.)

The hospital appears to be banking on the public sentiment that something must be done, this new proposal is something, therefore we should do it. NSHC wants carte blanche when establishing an ambulance service. I interpret this to mean NSHC will take over as long as NSHC is in total control and no questions are asked. NSHC will take no responsibility for costs, or cost containment controls, or entertain the idea of a simple cap on out of pocket expenses for those who are not insured in-network or covered by IHS, Medicaid or Medicare. That's a very strange position to take for a group whose CEO says their primary concern is addressing delays in response times. Taking the pragmatist's approach, if a sensible cap on out of pocket expenses sealed the deal, what is a small hit on revenue when weighed against people dying while waiting on an ambulance?

I'm always up for a sidebar conversation and can think of a few potentially viable alternatives to the NSHC proposal. But they're not ripe for open discussion in an email like this until we know some real numbers to weigh the pros and cons against. Nomites deserve to make an informed decision on something this important.

All the best,

Adam Lust  
907-304-2526

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Angie Gorn** <[agorn@nshcorp.org](mailto:agorn@nshcorp.org)>

Date: Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 1:04 PM

Subject: RE: FW: Questions about proposed ambulance service

To: Adam Lust <[adamlust@gmail.com](mailto:adamlust@gmail.com)>

Hello Adam,

I am sorry. We are willing to help and take it over, but we won't have specific billing charges to share with the public. If the public wants to keep the program with the City, then the City will do what they feel is best.

Thank you!

Angie

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Lust <[adamlust@gmail.com](mailto:adamlust@gmail.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:45 PM

To: Angie Gorn <[agorn@NSHCORP.ORG](mailto:agorn@NSHCORP.ORG)>

Subject: Re: FW: Questions about proposed ambulance service

WARNING: This email originated outside of NSHC. EXERCISE CAUTION when opening attachments or clicking links unless you recognize the sender and that the contents are safe.

Angie,

What a fantastically politically correct answer with nearly zero responsive answers.

I thought these were all fairly basic and thoughtful questions for anyone wanting to fully grasp the concept being proposed. Taking a we don't know, but we'll figure it out, and charge accordingly, is very cavalier. It's in the public's interest to understand and better know these details. And with most interesting things, answers are usually complex.

Do you want to take another bite at these questions? I would really like to know specifically about billing codes and their respective charges.

Adam

On Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 12:15 PM Angie Gorn <[agorn@nshcorp.org](mailto:agorn@nshcorp.org) <mailto:[agorn@nshcorp.org](mailto:agorn@nshcorp.org)> > wrote:

Good Afternoon Adam,

NSHC has proposed to the City that we could administer emergency ground ambulance services if it would be helpful, due to the concerns raised about delayed response time.

To answer your question about staffing and line item budget, NSHC will staff the program as we staff all programs, with qualified staff and enough of them. I do not have a budget to share with you at this time. The positions and starting pay are posted on our vacancy list.

As for operating at a loss....NSHC never intends to operate anything at a loss, but not all service lines are break even here. However, it sounds like the city currently operates at a loss even though NSHC provides in-kind support now as well as some financial assistance. If NSHC operates the program, all expenses will be incurred by NSHC and the program may not break-even. What is most important is the need for an urgent response that is not happening; this is NSHC's main priority at this time.

As for any price, billing, or balance billing questions, my response is this: NSHC will bill using best practices using Medicare guidelines.

Thank you for reaching out Adam,

Angie

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Lust <[adamlust@gmail.com](mailto:adamlust@gmail.com)> <mailto:[adamlust@gmail.com](mailto:adamlust@gmail.com)> >

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:16 AM

To: Angie Gorn <[agorn@NSHCORP.ORG](mailto:agorn@NSHCORP.ORG)> <mailto:[agorn@NSHCORP.ORG](mailto:agorn@NSHCORP.ORG)> >

Subject: Questions about proposed ambulance service

WARNING: This email originated outside of NSHC. EXERCISE CAUTION when opening attachments or clicking links unless you recognize the sender and that the contents are safe.

Hi Angie,

I'm very interested in the discussions between Norton Sound Health Corporation and the City of Nome over the possibility of providing ambulance services.

I'm trying to keep an open mind, just not so open my brain falls out. I'm struggling to fathom how this will work out financially without increasing the costs of ambulance service many times over.

Please feel free to forward these questions to whoever is the most appropriate to respond.

Based on the staffing proposals I read in The Nome Nugget, what are the anticipated yearly costs going to be to operate the ambulance service? Or maybe phrased a bit differently, if I were looking at NSHC's proposed operating budget for next year, what would the line item for ambulance service in Nome be.

Does NSHC intend to run this service at a loss?

Does the NSHC cost estimator have billing codes for ambulance services already online? If so, can I have a list of the potential codes that might be billed.

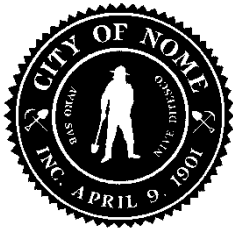
Could you provide some hypothetical examples of what be billed under certain scenarios. Say, an unresponsive individual laying on Front Street needing routine transport versus a critically ill heart attack patient.

Re: billing codes, how often would these prices be reviewed. Would they be attached to any sort of cost index to keep pricing under control?

For those with insurance that are not in-network and do not have IHS or Medicaid as a payer of last resort, would NSHC consider not balance billing on those charges?

The other information I'm looking for, such as the average number of calls for service over the past 5 years I can obtain from the City.

Adam



## City of Nome

P.O. Box 281, 102 Division Street

Nome, Alaska 99762

Phone (907) 443-6663

FAX (907) 443-5345 [www.nomealaska.org](http://www.nomealaska.org)

# Memo

**To:** Mayor & Nome Common Council  
**From:** Bryant Hammond  
**Date:** November 29, 2023  
**RE:** Request for Penalty & Interest Forgiveness

In late 2022, the assessors divided a non-contiguous pair of lots into two separate parcel IDs. A notice of assessment was mailed for the new parcel – 192.1.679 and a billing was created in our accounting package.



However, it appears that the paper bill itself was not created and hence not mailed. Bonanza paid its other tax bills but did not pay the new account until they received a delinquent notice. After some research, I still cannot explain why a paper bill was not generated for this particular parcel.

Bonanza has paid the tax owed and is asking for penalty

and interest to be forgiven, having never received a bill for a new property created for the present tax year.

I am asking for Council determination on the request.

Thank you



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nome City Council  
FROM: The Geo Group, Inc. (or subsidiary)  
DATE: December 6, 2023  
RE: Waiver of Penalties on 2023 Tax Bills

---

Hello,

Please find enclosed the payments for the penalties on accounts 50269 and 001.242.05. We are asking that you remove the penalties from these accounts, as we mailed payment with what was believed to be ample time. Despite our mailing the payments two weeks prior to the due date, the payments were received late due to reasons beyond our control. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the contact below.

Russell Watson  
Associate Analyst  
Phone: (317) 596-3260 x2508  
Email: [rwatson@dmainc.com](mailto:rwatson@dmainc.com)

Thank you,



December 6, 2023

Honorable Common Council Members, Mayor Handeland, and City Manager Steckman:

RE: Current gaps in providing effective and meaningful notifications and plans for public response to emergencies in Nome.

The Nome Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)<sup>1</sup> plans and exercises for all hazard emergencies such as HAZMAT spills, fires, aircraft accidents, medical surge, earthquakes, tsunami, and sea storms that have historically impacted Nome residents. In late 2020 and early 2021 the LEPC prepared and presented an updated Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for the City of Nome to Mr. Steckman. This was an update from the 2011 Plan, but it has not been ratified and implemented by the City Council.

The Nome LEPC, Preparedness Sub Committee (LEPC-PC) met November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to discuss the current lack of public emergency warning communications, and plans for educating the public on the EOP processes. In attendance was Mr. Ryan Metzger (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) from the National Weather Service in Fairbanks. We discussed historical emergency events in Nome and the region as well as and the potential for future events. Additionally, we discussed the current systems and processes to warn, educate, plan, and execute effective responses for all emergencies that may happen in Nome. The focal point of our discussion was the current issue of no emergency sirens or other all-of-City wide emergency notification system available for the public. Even if the City could quickly notify all the citizens, the citizens have not been educated on plans nor specific routes for evacuation to designated shelters<sup>2</sup>.

Further, the LEPC-PC discussed as well the failing 911 phone system and Emergency Services Radio System which the Council and Administration continue (for several years) to have no expressed plan to repair those two systems.

### **Background**

Recently Nome has experienced “close calls” for potential widespread casualties/destruction where the emergency sirens would have notified residents of a larger disaster and prompted them to act to remove themselves/children/elderly etc. from harm. These include but are not limited to:

1. Earthquake (Magnitude 6.4) in the southern Bering Sea (October 2023): This was a very concerning event for the Nome LEPC because the quake was not only large but was located *north* of the Aleutian Island, potentially exposing the Bering Strait region to a Tsunami. Since



the mass majority of quakes occur south of the Aleutian chain, the threat is typically extended to the south and not north towards the Seward Peninsula. Therefore, there is very little Tsunami warning instrumentation located in the southern Bering Sea. During the October event it took three hours for the NWS Tsunami Warning Center to notify our region (the LEPC Chair) of any potential Tsunami. Current tsunami models predict that a Tsunami generated from a similar earthquake in the southern Bering Sea, the tsunami would have arrived within two hours. Lastly, historical information indicates a 20ft tsunami wave could easily arrive to Nome's shores.

2. Landfall of Typhoon Merbok and the concurrent Bering Sea Restaurant and Bar fire (September 2022): While the siren systems were functional at the time of Merbok's arrival and the fire these two combined events is a perfect view into the emergency events in Nome's long history. As you know the City has burnt almost in its entirety to the ground a number of times. The potential of burning Nome down again was a real threat while NVFD was fighting the Bering Sea fire. We have also endured what have been labeled as "100-year events" on a 3-5 year cycle and sometimes back to back years. Merbok is reported to have had an 11ft storm surge in Nome. Recall, a Tsunami could have a 20ft wave surge.

3. The Airport Table Top Exercise TTX (May 2023): While not an actually physical event, but a TTX with local State and City emergency managers, responders, and tenants at the Nome Airport. This group also discussed how would the City, and emergency managers quickly notify the public of an emergency without operational sires, and an uneducated public on the appropriate actions to take in the event of an emergency.

### **Recommendations/Solutions**

During our meeting, the LEPC-PC was unable to determine the current issue for the siren system failure. It is well known the main unit was damaged during the fire at the Public Works Building on March 13, 2023. Some LEPC members noted the City is working to fix the system, and another member noted they were advised in a separate City meeting the current system is so antiquated that repair parts are no longer available. It was also noted the siren system is directly reliant on the failing EMS radio system.

1. Funding must be immediately sought (preferably grant funding) to obtain functional mass emergency public notification sirens. Hurricane, major storms, and tsunami events occur statewide/worldwide and communities use, maintain, and replace siren warning systems as a normal business. Finding a replacement mass emergency notification system should be a priority. Grants and federal Funding are readily available currently for early warning systems.

2. Funding must be immediately sought (again we recommend grants) to obtain a new EMS radio system. The City has had more than one contractor provide a review and recommendations for the replacement of the system over the past few years (LEPC-PC was not sure if an official RFP process has been started). The City has received two \$500,000.00 grants to replace the radio system and not been able to follow through. These efforts include FEMA

grant funds (2018) received which were subsequently turned down by the City Administration, as well as another FEMA grant (2020) which FEMA pulled as the COVID pandemic was prioritized higher.

3. Finalize the DRAFT Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which was presented to the City Manager in 2021. In addition to two Annex's the LEPC did not have the expertise to write at the time, we recommend an additional Annex which includes mass evacuation planning, notification procedures, marked travel/evacuation routes, supplied shelters that are well defined, and frequent/relevant public outreach on emergency notification, procedures, and actions.

4. The LEPC has long supported the City employing an Emergency Services Director, who would keep emergency/disaster notifications and communications up to date and operational, as well as support the Fire, Ambulance, and Police Departments.

**Conclusion:**

The LEPC is a planning body created by the Federal Government, and has oversight by both the Federal and State governments in Nome since the early 2000's. There are some failed and deteriorating emergency communication systems in Nome, as well as the lack of evacuation infrastructure and public education and preparedness. The City of Nome responds to all emergencies in super hero fashion as each emergency unfolds. The LEPC-PC respectfully request the Common Council consider the immediate needs and concerns as listed above, along with the solutions presented.

*1: Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC's) were identified and empowered under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) as codified and regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency under 40 CFR Parts 355 and 370. LEPC's are also regulated by the State of Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.*

*2: The LEPC Tribal Representative has stated all four Nome-based tribal governments (i.e. Native Village of Solomon, Nome Eskimo Community, King Island Traditional Council, and Native Village of Council) representing 60% of Nome's residents, are gravely concerned the City of Nome has no evacuation routes marked for the public.*

**LEPC Preparedness Subcommittee:**

Thomas Vaden, LEPC Chair

LT. Paul G. Kosto, LEPC Vice Chair

Kevin Knowlton, Tribal Representative

Gay Sheffield, UAF Northwest Campus Representative

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Thomas Vaden", the second is "Paul G. Kosto", the third is "Kevin Knowlton", and the fourth is "signed for Gay Sheffield". Each signature is written over a horizontal line.

Presented By:  
City Manager  
Action Taken:  
Yes \_\_\_  
No \_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_

**CITY OF NOME, ALASKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. R-23-12-02**

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CHARLES “CHIP” LEEPER  
AS ACTING CITY MANAGER  
FOR DECEMBER 20, 2023 TO JANUARY 3, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, NCO 2.335.030 provides that “During the city manager’s absence or disability, the city council shall designate by resolution an official to act as city manager”; and,

**WHEREAS**, modern advancements in communications technology allow individuals to perform duties from locations other than a fixed office, so job responsibilities and functions can be performed from anywhere on the globe, but on occasion it is necessary, prudent and healthy for an employee to be able to “unplug” on occasion; and,

**WHEREAS**, Glenn Steckman, City Manager believes it prudent to have an Acting City Manager available in town during this period to be able to address any necessary matters promptly; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager recommends Charles “Chip” Leeper, be designated Acting City Manager during the period of December 20, 2023 through January 3, 2024 with authority to perform powers and duties of manager during the period;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nome Common Council accepts the manager’s recommendation and appoints/designates Charles “Chip” Leeper as Acting City Manager for the period of December 20, 2023 through January 3, 2024, to perform delegated duties and assume the responsibilities as provided in NCO 2.35.020, elsewhere in the Code, and in Alaska Statutes – Title 29.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOHN K. HANDELAND, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JEREMY JACOBSON, Deputy City Clerk**

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

December 8, 2023

**Professional Housing Grant:**

The city has been awarded a grant opportunity for \$5,000,000 to build six professional housing units and three affordable housing units through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. AHFC will work with city staff to develop means to leverage funds to possibly build even more professional housing such as for teachers and public safety.

The Mayor and I participated in a zoom meeting with AHFC and met in person with AHFC at AML to discover what opportunities are available to the city. A briefing is planned for your January 8, 2024 meeting

The lack of professional housing is creating a bleeding of employees and revenues for the State of Alaska. More importantly, it has created an unstable workforce.

**Siren System:**

As many of you know, the March fire impacted the Public Works Building. It destroyed supplies, it destroyed the downtown siren. This siren is being replaced with insurance funds. Our siren system is old and will ultimately need to be replaced. The first phase will be the downtown siren. The Icy View siren has had an enhanced level of protection added due to vandalism. In meetings with various community organizations this issue has been discussed.

**The Port:**

The port RFP is now scheduled to be issued in January by the Army Corps of Engineers. The ceremonial signing of the PPA is scheduled for the second week of January.

**Polar Pools:**

Bob Walker and his staff will arrive in Nome from 12/18-12/22 to continue the replacement of the pool operating systems and perform additional testing. Once this process is completed and the mechanicals tested, the water levels will need to be brought up to operational levels and the pool water warmed. Finally, manufacturer reps will need to sign off.

City pool staff will then need to be trained on the new operating systems. Lifeguards will also need to be accredited again.

**Hockey Rink:**

The hockey rink is now open and the lights for the rink are being installed as time allows for NJUS. There is also a camera that will view the rink to record any incidents and vandalism at the rink. Congratulations to NWSA volunteers, Chip Leeper, Blake Bogart, Cole Cushman and his staff, Ken Morton and NJUS for their efforts.

#### **Christmas Extravaganza:**

It was a standing room only crowd for Christmas Extravaganza. Grandparents, aunts and uncles and sisters and brothers and cousins came to witness their family members performing in choral groups, the Covenant Bell Choir, the Nome Beltz High Schools students, the Live Nativity.

I want to thank Cheryl Thompson, Angie Nguyen, Marguerite La Riviere, Cole Cushman and his staff. For their production efforts. I also want to thank the groups and individuals performing. Mayor Handeland as the MC. And, Santa Claus for taking time to come when he is so busy at this time of year.

#### **Recycling Grant:**

The entire region of the Nome Census District will benefit from properly recycling materials that are being deposited in our landfills and regional landfills. Kawerak led the effort for this grant, specifically Anahma Shannon.

The proposed project will see the City of Nome to work with Kawerak in an effort to begin diverting items away from the City landfill to areas outside of Nome for recycling.

The grant project award and what it covers will be presented at council workshop in late January or February. The City's involvement may be providing a building at the Mono-fill that is underused for baling and separation of recycled items.

#### **Second Meeting December:**

This meeting will be canceled as practice.

#### **Alaska Municipal League Conference:**

Two areas of discussion interested me. One area was a discussion of civility that is plaguing all levels of government. The other area is AI/Chatgpt.

With civility it is how words are used, differing generational values and expectations are creating challenges in public discourse. The solution is more listening and better communication to our constituency.

With AI/Chatgpt, this computer program may allow city staff in helping with this dialogue. For instance, it could help prepare newsletters, letters and public documents faster. Obviously, Chatgpt has its pros and cons. It is not a solution to reducing staff but a tool for staff to perform their jobs better.

#### **Radio System RFP:**

The RFP is being developed to get into the market place by the first of the year. I am requesting the NSEDC funds of \$150,000 be allocated for this project. Grant funding is also being looked into.



# Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager  
 From: Joy L. Baker – Project Manager *JLB*  
 CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Planning Commission; Port Commission  
 Date: December 8, 2023  
 Re: Monthly Projects Update – Dec 2023

## **Causeway:**

### Arctic Deep Draft Port – Nome Modifications Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED):

The Alaska Corps District and Pacific Ocean Division (POD-HI) are in the process of doing the final review of the 100% design drawings and specifications for construction of Phase 1 of the Port of Nome Modification (PONM) Project. Upon completion of the review, the District Contracting Office will finalize the solicitation package which will then go through another 3-week review before being considered ready for official release to bidders. This release date has not yet been identified, but is expected to occur in mid to late January 2024. One additional requirement prior to solicitation, is to have the official signing of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA), which has just been scheduled for 11 Jan 2024 in Nome. More details will be released as they come available, but the signing ceremony will be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall.

*The Incidental Hazard Authorization (IHA) permit for the 1<sup>st</sup> year (2024) of the project, issued by NOAA/NMFS, remains available at [this link](#) or by accessing [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) and entering 2023-19187 in the search bar at the top right of the main page.*

### Local Service Facilities (LSF) Design Integration:

*Upon release of the final PONM Phase 1 solicitation package, the City's design teams will remain onboard and available during the bidding process to address contractor questions, and throughout construction to provide inspection services and ensure the LSF elements are built correctly.*

### U.S. DOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Pre-Award:

The Finance Director and myself have been engaging in multiple webinars hosted by MARAD for all grant recipients to ensure a solid understanding of all pre-award submittal requirements. There are numerous layers to this new approach, all of which must be met before the \$11.25M grant agreement is executed. These funds will be used to cover a portion of the costs needed to purchase and construct the marine utilities for Phase 1 of the Port of Nome Modification Project. The City will provide matching funds in the estimated amount of \$16M, which will be sourced through eligible state funding. The exact amount of the match will depend on the winning bid for the work.

### Causeway Bridge Repairs and Sediment Removal:

*The Corps has awarded the contract to Bristol Engineering for the repairs to the abutment and girders on the north end of the Causeway bridge. The project field work is now scheduled for early summer 2024.*

Arctic Port Reception Facility – Solid Waste Disposal (Incinerator):

*Additional funding opportunities are on the horizon and being evaluated for this project.*

**Harbor:**Inner Harbor CAP 107 Study (Deepen/Widen the Inner Basin):

*The City continues to make monthly inquiries on the status of this project, with District reporting they are awaiting direction from Corps HQ on how to proceed. The delays on this issue have also been submitted to Alaska Delegation staff members for action. Recent information indicates there has been movement at Corps HQ on this project.*

**Port Industrial Pad:**West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

The USAF has returned the final drafts of the Quit Claim Deed and Environmental Covenants for one more review by the City and ADEC. If all is in order, this will move the 7-acre conveyance into the signature/execution phase.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

*Dredge spoils from the port expansion and inner harbor project have been given clearance by two ADEC programs (Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites), to be disposed of in the undeveloped 9-acre portion of this property. The spoils will require dewatering before serving as a hardened base layer to the specified fill and surfacing to complete development of the 18-acre parcel.*

*Over the summer, Public Works filled depressions on the pad to maximize the usable surface before winter. This repair/prep will allow relocations of containers, dredges and equipment in 2024 for construction setup.*

Port Rd. Improvements (ADOT Project cost-shared with City/Port):

This state STIP project has been postponed to approximately 2028/2029 to avoid conflicting with the heavier truck traffic during the port expansion. There is ongoing discussion regarding fixing drainage/pavement breaks in 2024.

**FEMA DR4672 Merbok Recover Projects:**Inner Harbor Dredging – South Wall and East Ramp:

The City has submitted responses to FEMA's questions regarding calculations of cubic yards for estimating the sediment that remains near the south wall and east gravel ramp in the inner harbor. Once the Scope of Work and material quantity are deemed final, disaster funds will be obligated and the work scheduled for the 2024 ice-free season.

Cape Nome Jetty Repair:

PND (subcontractor to Bristol) have completed the 70% level repair design drawings and construction cost estimate, which have been shared with FEMA for review and input. Discussions continue with FEMA on elements of the storm repair project, and BSNC on the long-term partnership with the City for operation of the Cape Nome Jetty.

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*Italics reflects no change in project information from previous report*