

April 19, 2007

Haines Borough  
Public Safety Commission

Ref: Quarterly report April 2007

Commission Members;

I am in receipt of your April 2007 quarterly report and in reviewing that document will address the recommendations forwarded to the Haines Borough Assembly.

1) What can be done to get the HB drug testing policy into compliance with State Law AS 23.10.650?

**ANSWER:** It is my opinion that AS 23.10.670 allows the HBPD to operate a drug and alcohol testing policy without strict adherence to AS 23.10.650. It states, in part, that we do not have to be “consistent with AS 23.10.600 – 23.10.699, so long as the employer complies with the state or federal requirements applicable to the employer’s operation.”

2) What can be done to eliminate the failure of the HB Police Department to respond to complaints?

**ANSWER:** This is a very serious accusation, based on very vague and incomplete information. It is and has been this department’s policy to respond appropriately to each and every complaint filed with this department. The action taken is determined by the information received. I review and critique every complaint received by the HBPD, and am not aware of any pending or past complaints that have not been addressed. Without more information I am not able to defend myself against this accusation.

3) Should polygraph testing be used internally in the HB Police Department?

**ANSWER:** Absolutely! A lie-detector is only a tool and is used by police and private industry all across the country. Lie-detector tests are administered for pre-employment screening by police departments throughout the country and are used as a tool in a criminal investigation to test the veracity of potential witnesses and to test the truthfulness of defendants. It may, under most circumstances, not be admitted as evidence in a criminal case, but is allowed as evidence in most civil matters. It is a

valuable tool used as part of an investigation into allegations of police misconduct and should not be eliminated from the arsenal of tools available to us. Please review AS 23.10.037 it is the State Statute that deals with lie-detectors in employee employer relationships.

4) Should the HB Assembly require the HB Police Department and /or Borough Offices to forward a copy of all complaints received regarding the operation or performance of the HB Police Department to the PSC.

**ANSWER:** No. Complaints about members of the HBPD are confidential. They are investigated by me or my delegate and the results are placed in the employee's personnel file. All complaints are forwarded to the Borough Manager for his/her review before any action is taken. Allegations of misconduct directed towards me are filed with the Borough Manager. If the complainant wishes to inform the PSC of a complaint or discuss a complaint filed with the HBPD that's fine. But the Haines Borough Police Department will not release any information about a complaint unless under court order to do so.

5) Should the PSC review the applications of all new hires to the HB Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Services Department prior to hiring?

**ANSWER:** Police officers are professionals who must meet minimum standards as outlined in Alaska Administrative Code 13AAC85.010 through 13AAC85.040. Police officer hires are best left to people who know what to look for and have the best interests of the community and the Haines Borough in mind

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Gregory N. Goodman, Chief  
Haines Borough Police Department

Cc: Mayor Shields  
Borough Manager  
Borough Assembly  
file