

AGENDA

**“Healing Racism in Anchorage — Where Do We Go From Here?”
Developing Strategies for Change
Roundtable Discussion with Kitchen Cabinet and Guests
June 27, 2001, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wilda Marston Auditorium, Loussac Library**

SESSION A

I. Introduction

Honorable George Wuerch, Mayor of Anchorage

II. Overview of the Problem

Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives

III. Governor’s Commission on Tolerance

Rev. Chuck Eddy, Chair, Governor’s Commission on Tolerance

IV. Anchorage Schools Perspective

Carol Comeau, Superintendent, Anchorage School District

V. Questions and Answers

SESSION B

Group Identification of Issues

SESSION C

Introduce Team Leaders

Team Breakout Sessions to Discuss Issues

SESSION D

Full Group Sets Issues

Study Assignments Given to Teams

CLOSING REMARKS

D R A F T

Tolerance Commission

1st Organizational Meeting, June 28, 2001
Anchorage Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th, Suite 240
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open to the Public

- 10 a.m. Overview of Gov. Knowles' cabinet level Task Force on Tolerance
-- Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer
- 10:15 a.m. Introduction of Commission members to discuss discrimination issues
(representing themselves or their group)
- 11:45 Working lunch where commissioners discuss what's happening in their own
communities
- 1 p.m. Overview from National Groups
Southern Poverty Law Center by teleconference
Anti-Defamation League by teleconference
- 1:30 Overview from State Groups
Alaska Human Rights Commission
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Native Justice Center
Catholic Social Services Immigration
Alaska Civil Liberties Union
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
Alaska Office - NAACP
Standing Together Against Rape
- 3:30 Wrap up
Discussion of potential subcommittees
Discussion of location, dates for future public hearings
Discussion of public comment format

Goal: A more tolerant Alaska that celebrates our diversity of people and cultures.

Current Alaska Human Rights Laws make it unlawful to discriminate because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex and physical or mental disability. The Tolerance Commission is open for discussions on these and any other forms of discrimination.

Alaska Human Rights Commission

ALASKA HUMAN RIGHTS LAW makes it unlawful to discriminate in:

- * Employment
- * Places of Public Accommodation
- * Sale or Rental of Real Property
- * Financing and Credit
- * Practices by the State or its Political Subdivisions

because of:

- * Race
- * Religion
- * Color
- * National Origin
- * Sex
- * Physical/Mental Disability

and in some instances because of:

- * Age
- * Marital Status
- * Changes in Marital Status
- * Pregnancy
- * Parenthood

WHAT DOES THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DO?

- * Accepts complaints of discrimination from persons alleging violations of Alaska Human Rights Law;
- * Investigates complaints in a fair and impartial manner;
- * Attempts early settlement of complaints whenever possible;
- * Dismisses complaints when no violation of Alaska Human Rights Law has occurred;
- * Conciliates complaints when Alaska Human Rights Law has been violated;
- * Gives technical assistance and advice on Alaska Human Rights Law; and
- * Conducts workshops and training of employers, unions, landlords, businesses, and others who must comply with the Alaska Human Rights Law.

The Commissioners:

- Hold public hearings to consider cases where conciliation efforts have failed;
- Issue decisions applying Human Rights Law to individual or class action cases;
- Order back-pay, reinstatement, or other appropriate relief to complainants;
- Order the elimination of discriminatory practices; and
- Enforce Commission decisions and orders in the Alaska courts.

HOW CAN THE COMMISSION HELP YOU?

If you believe that you have experienced discrimination, you may contact the Commission. The Commission staff will advise you of your rights under Alaska Human Rights Law and when appropriate assist you to file a complaint.

HOW TO CONTACT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Anchorage Area 907-274-4692
Anchorage Area TTY/TDD 907-276-3177
Fax (907) 278-8588

Toll-Free Complaint Hot Line (in-state only) 800-478-4692
TTY/TDD Toll-Free Complaint Hot Line (in-state only) 800-478-3177

Address:

Alaska State Commission for Human Rights
800 A Street, Suite 204
Anchorage, AK 99501-3669



AHRIC Review

Alaska Human Resource
Investment Council
Department of Labor
& Workforce Development
550 W. 7th Ave, Ste. 1830
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-269-7485
fax: 907-269-7489

email: AHRIC@labor.state.ak.us
www.labor.state.ak.us/commish/ahric/home.htm

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SB 137 was amended and passed out of the House Finance Committee on May 6. The House Finance amendment changed the allocations and added a fourth institution, as follows:

UA (63%).....	\$2,868,894
Galena Project Ed. Vocational Training Ctr. (4%).....	\$182,152
Kotz. Tech Ctr. (11%).....	\$500,918
AVTEC (22%).....	\$1,001,836
TOTAL.....	\$4,553,800

The Finance Committee Substitute for SB 137 was offered by Representative Mulder, with the allocation for Galena coming from the Kotzebue Technical Center. Representative Davies offered an amendment to take the Galena allocation from UA rather than Kotz Tech, which was approved by the committee without objection.

HCS CSSB 137(FIN) was unanimously approved by the full House on May 8, and the Senate concurred with the House amendments by a vote of 11 Yeas, 9 Nays. The bill is awaiting transmittal to the Governor.

Rep. Foster introduced **HB 239** in the final days of the session, which would establish a pilot program for a regional learning center in the Department of Education & Early Development "for the purpose of supplementing secondary education programs." HB 239 was introduced in response to recommendations made in a recent report on regional learning centers issued by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (copies available through LB&A).

HB 239 made rapid progress through the House, but landed in the Senate HESS Committee, where it now resides. No action was taken on the bill in Senate HESS before the end of session.

JUNE BOARD TRAINING

On June 5, 2001, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., the AHRIC will meet at the Atwood Building, Suite 602, in Anchorage for facilitated board training. The council will also discuss revisions to the Strategic Plan and develop legislative strategy for the rest of the year. On June 6, the council's Executive Committee will meet with the EC's of the 2 local WIBs for additional training.

Regional Training Centers

A news release was distributed on April 30 announcing AHRIC's solicitation of proposals, on behalf of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, addressing Alaska's vocational and technical education and training needs. The proposals will help guide decisions related to regional training programs in Alaska and gauge the interest and need for regional training centers.

Review of the proposals will be based upon AHRIC's *Future Workforce Strategic Policies and Investment Blueprint*, a framework for strengthening vocational and technical education and training statewide.

Copies of the complete Solicitation of Interest may be requested by contacting Mike Lohmann at 269-

4655; by Fax: 269-4661, or Email: mike_lohmann@labor.state.ak.us. The complete Solicitation of Interest can also be downloaded off the AHRIC web site.

The RFP announcement has generated quite a bit of interest, and the solicitation has been widely distributed. The proposal inquiry deadline is June 15, 2001, and the proposal submission deadline is July 13, 2001. Proposals are to be submitted to Mike Lohmann in the Workforce Investment Office, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, 3301 Eagle Street, Suite 106, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Once AHRIC's review of the proposals is complete, the proposals will then be provided to Senator Stevens for review and consideration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- X **May 14, Noon** – Executive Committee Teleconference
- X **June 5, 9:30a-5:00p** – Board Training, Atwood Bldg. Ste. 602
- X **June 6, 10a-2p** – Executive Board training w/ Local WIB Executive Boards, Courtyard Marriott, Spenard Rd., Anchorage
- X **June 7-8** – BOS WIB Board Training, Wedgewood Hotel in Fairbanks
- X **June 8, 2-4:30p** – BOS WIB Business Meeting, Fairbanks Job Center

LOOK AT OUR WEB SITE

We've changed the look of our web site. Please take a look:
www.labor.state.ak.us/commish/ahric/home.htm



AHRIC Review

Alaska Human Resource
Investment Council
Department of Labor
& Workforce Development
550 W. 7th Ave, Ste. 1830
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-269-7485

fax: 907-269-7489

email: AHRIC@labor.state.ak.us

www.labor.state.ak.us/commish/ahric/home.htm

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SB 137 was amended and passed out of the House Finance Committee on May 6. The House Finance amendment changed the allocations and added a fourth institution, as follows:

UA (63%).....	\$2,868,894
Galena Project Ed. Vocational Training Ctr. (4%).....	\$182,152
Kotz. Tech Ctr. (11%).....	\$500,918
AVTEC (22%).....	\$1,001,836
TOTAL.....	\$4,553,800

The Finance Committee Substitute for SB 137 was offered by Representative Mulder, with the allocation for Galena coming from the Kotzebue Technical Center. Representative Davies offered an amendment to take the Galena allocation from UA rather than Kotz Tech, which was approved by the committee without objection.

HCS CSSB 137(FIN) was unanimously approved by the full House on May 8, and the Senate concurred with the House amendments by a vote of 11 Yeas, 9 Nays. The bill is awaiting transmittal to the Governor.

Rep. Foster introduced HB 239 in the final days of the session, which would establish a pilot program for a regional learning center in the Department of Education & Early Development "for the purpose of supplementing secondary education programs." HB 239 was introduced in response to recommendations made in a recent report on regional learning centers issued by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (copies available through LB&A).

HB 239 made rapid progress through the House, but landed in the Senate HESS Committee, where it now resides. No action was taken on the bill in Senate HESS before the end of session.

JUNE BOARD TRAINING

On June 5, 2001, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., the AHRIC will meet at the Atwood Building, Suite 602, in Anchorage for facilitated board training. The council will also discuss revisions to the Strategic Plan and develop legislative strategy for the rest of the year. On June 6, the council's Executive Committee will meet with the EC's of the 2 local WIBs for additional training.

Regional Training Centers

A news release was distributed on April 30 announcing AHRIC's solicitation of proposals, on behalf of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, addressing Alaska's vocational and technical education and training needs. The proposals will help guide decisions related to regional training programs in Alaska and gauge the interest and need for regional training centers.

Review of the proposals will be based upon AHRIC's *Future Workforce Strategic Policies and Investment Blueprint*, a framework for strengthening vocational and technical education and training statewide.

Copies of the complete Solicitation of Interest may be requested by contacting Mike Lohmann at 269-

4655; by Fax: 269-4661, or Email: mike_lohmann@labor.state.ak.us. The complete Solicitation of Interest can also be downloaded off the AHRIC web site.

The RFP announcement has generated quite a bit of interest, and the solicitation has been widely distributed. The proposal inquiry deadline is June 15, 2001, and the proposal submission deadline is July 13, 2001. Proposals are to be submitted to Mike Lohmann in the Workforce Investment Office, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, 3301 Eagle Street, Suite 106, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Once AHRIC's review of the proposals is complete, the proposals will then be provided to Senator Stevens for review and consideration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- X May 14, Noon – Executive Committee Teleconference
- X June 5, 9:30a-5:00p – Board Training, Atwood Bldg. Ste. 602
- X June 6, 10a-2p – Executive Board training w/ Local WIB Executive Boards, Courtyard Marriott, Spenard Rd., Anchorage
- X June 7-8 – BOS WIB Board Training, Wedgewood Hotel in Fairbanks
- X June 8, 2-4:30p – BOS WIB Business Meeting, Fairbanks Job Center

LOOK AT OUR WEB SITE

We've changed the look of our web site. Please take a look:
www.labor.state.ak.us/commish/ahric/home.htm



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Press Releases



ALASKA IN THE NEWS

May 1, 2001

Release 01113

NATIVE, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS LEADERS NAMED TO COMMISSION ON TOLERANCE *Knowles Appoints 14-Member Panel to Assess Problem, Recommend Actions*

Praising their diversity and proven leadership, Gov. Tony Knowles today named 14 Alaska Native, ethnic, and religious leaders to the Governor's Commission on Tolerance. The commission was recommended by the Governor's cabinet level Task Force on Tolerance, formed in the wake of the Anchorage "paintball incident."

"In February, Alaskans were sickened to see the videotape of three teenagers who targeted Alaska Natives for violence in downtown Anchorage," Knowles said. "This assault was only the latest in a series of incidents of racial intolerance eating away at Alaska's social fabric and it's appropriate that the state respond."

"In addition to the hate crimes legislation and other steps that I have proposed our schools and law enforcement take, I'm asking this distinguished group of Alaskans to hold hearings throughout the state to fully assess the extent of this problem and recommend additional ways to respond," Knowles said. "It's my hope the result will be a more tolerant Alaska that celebrates our diversity of people and cultures."

Members of the Alaska Commission on Tolerance include:

Rev. Chuck Eddy of Anchorage - Recently retired rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Rev. Eddy served on the municipality's Social Services Advisory Commission, and the board of the Alaska Council on Alcoholism. He will serve as Chairman of the Tolerance Commission.

Sen. Georgianna Lincoln of Rampart - First elected to the House in 1990 and now in her third term in the Senate, Lincoln is an outspoken advocate of Alaska Native issues and served on the Local-State Tribal Relations Task Force.



Gov. Tony Knowles and members of the newly created Commission on Tolerance. From L to R are Rep. Mary Kapsner (D-Bethel); retired Superior Court Judge Tom Stewart of Juneau; Sen. Bettye Davis (D-Anchorage); Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, ex-officio member of the commission; and Sen. Georgianna Lincoln (D-Rampart).



Commission on Tolerance members participating from Anchorage: From L to R: Theima Buchholdt, Gilbert Sanchez, Rev. Chuck Eddy, and Mara Kimmel.

Sen. Bettye Davis of Anchorage - now in her first term in the Senate after three terms in the House, Davis is chair of the Alaska Black Caucus, president of the National Caucus of Black School Board Members and a former member of Anchorage School Board.

Father Michael Oleksa of Koliganek - an ordained Orthodox priest, Father Oleksa has spent most of his adult life working throughout rural Alaska, and is well known teacher and speaker on inter-cultural communications.

Rep. Mary Kapsner of Bethel - now in her second term representing the Kuskokwim and Bristol Bay regions, Kapsner previously was youth representative to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the National Congress of American Indians.

Jim Hayes of Fairbanks - the first African-American to be elected mayor in Alaska, Hayes is now in his third term as chief executive in Fairbanks and served as a member of the city's human rights commission.

Thelma Buchholdt of Anchorage - The first Filipino American woman ever elected to the State House, Buchholdt served four terms, helped found of the Asian Alaskan Cultural Center, and now directs the state Office of Equal Employment Opportunity.

Denise Morris of Anchorage - President and CEO of the Alaska Native Justice Center, Morris is an active member of numerous groups that have worked on gender equality, juvenile justice, and victims rights.

Marie Greene of Kotzebue - Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the NANA Regional Corporation, Greene is a former chairman of the Kotzebue IRA Council and was a delegate to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Tom Stewart of Juneau - A retired Superior Court judge, Stewart has a lifetime of service to the State of Alaska, including work as secretary to the Alaska Constitutional Convention in 1955 and 1956.

Kelly Brown of Fairbanks - Business Agent for the Alaska State Employees Association, Brown helped organize a local "Not in our Town" campaign against hate violence and intolerance.

Shari Kochman of Juneau - Deputy Legislative Director for Gov. Knowles, Kochman is board secretary for the Juneau Jewish Community and is active in local arts groups and school mentor programs.

Mara Kimmel of Anchorage - staff attorney for the immigration and refugee services program of Catholic Social Services, Kimmel previously focused on Alaska Native law and was subsistence liaison for the Chugachmuit Native Corporation.

Gilbert Sanchez of Anchorage - born in Cuba, Sanchez has over two decades of experience as a broadcast journalist and won awards for his coverage of unsolved homicides of Alaska Native women in Anchorage.

Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer will serve as an ex-officio member of the commission.

The commission is expected to hold hearings in a dozen or more communities in both rural and urban Alaska this summer and fall, and to prepare a report and recommendations for the Governor by November 30. The goals of the hearings are to:

- Develop a record of the depth of the problem, which can become an important tool for the creation of public policy;
- Capture the ideas of Alaskans, both professionals and private citizens, on solid approaches to addressing the issues; and,
- Develop concrete proposals and recommendations for systemic solutions.

Following through on other recommendations of his Task Force, Knowles last month introduced the Alaska Hate Crimes Act to punish offenders who commit crimes based on hatred of others. The Governor repeated his call for the Legislature to hold a hearing on the bill this session. Knowles is also calling on school districts to create standards and guidelines for protecting students from hate crimes and for more training for public safety officers to recognize and respond to these crimes.

##

Contact:

Bob King, Press Secretary at 907-465-3995

[Press Releases](#) | [Press Office](#) | [Contact the Governor](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [State of Alaska](#)

WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

State of Alaska
Office of the Governor

Tony Knowles
Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
NEWS RELEASE



Bob King
Press Secretary
Claire Richardson
Deputy Press Secretary
907-465-3500
FAX: 907-465-3533
www.gov.state.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 14, 2001

01-140

COMMISSION ON TOLERANCE TO HOLD
FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

14-member panel to discuss plans for statewide hearings

The Commission on Tolerance will hold its first, day-long organizational meeting June 28 in Anchorage. The commission, created by Gov. Tony Knowles following a unanimous recommendation by a cabinet level Task Force on Tolerance, is charged with listening to Alaskans about discrimination and make recommendations regarding the issue to Knowles by November 30.

"Alaska is a huge state with a variety of cultures, languages, customs and lifestyles, commission member Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer said. "But whether you live in Barrow, Ketchikan, Nome or Anchorage we are one state and our people share much in common. The hearings we will hold during the year will be a good step in brining Alaskans together to discuss ways to unify our diverse peoples."

During the June 28 meeting, the 14-member panel will discuss its overall plans for those hearings and will hear from several organizations and agencies regarding specific issues that need to be addressed.

The organization meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the third floor of the Atwood Building and is open to the public. No extensive public testimony will be taken at this meeting as the Commission will be holding a number of hearings in communities around Alaska to take testimony. The purpose of this meeting is to organize that effort.

Commission members represent Alaska Native, ethnic, and religious leaders and include: Rev. Chuck Eddy, Sen. Georgiana Lincoln, Sen. Bettye Davis, Father Michael Oleksa, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Jim Hayes, Thelma Buchholdt, Denise Morris, Marie Greene, Tom Stewart, Kelly Brown, Shari Kochman, Mara Kimmel, Gilbert Sanchez, and Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer.

"In addition to the hate crimes legislation and other steps that I have proposed our schools and law enforcement take, I'm asking this distinguished group of

-more-

Alaskans to hold hearings throughout the state to fully assess the extent of this problem and recommend additional ways to respond," Knowles said. "It's my hope the result will be a more tolerant Alaska that celebrates our diversity of people and cultures."

The commission is expected to hold hearings in both rural and urban Alaska this summer and fall.

The goals of the hearings are to:

- Develop a record of the depth of the problem, which can become an important tool for the creation of public policy;
- Capture the ideas of Alaskans, both professionals and private citizens, on solid approaches to addressing the issues; and,
- Develop concrete proposals and recommendations for systemic solutions.

In April Knowles introduced the Alaska Hate Crimes Act to punish offenders who commit crimes based on hatred of others. Knowles is also calling on school districts to create standards and guidelines for protecting students from hate crimes and for more training for public safety officers to recognize and respond to these crimes.

Broadcasters note: Radio Actualities of Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer are available at 800-478-5669.

1
2
3 **MCPRTF/OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
4 **DISCUSSION OF RACISM IN**
5 **ANCHORAGE**

6 Fairview Recreation Center
7 1131 10th Avenue
8 Anchorage, Alaska

9 May 11, 2001 - 1:30 p.m.

10 MEMBERS PRESENT:

11 Reverend William Greene, Chair
12 Mayor George Wuerch
13 Ms. Rita Ramos
14 Ms. Elaine K. Cooper
15 Mr. Phil Reid
16 Mr. Timothy M. Burgess
17 Mr. Robert C. Eddy
18 Father Chuck Eddy
19 Mr. Robert Burnham
20 Mr. Bruce Roberts
21 Mr. J. Christian Lyou
22 Deputy Police Chief Mark Mew

23 ADVISORY MEMBERS:

24 Ms. Sandra Blair
25 Mr. David M. Levy

26 Recorded and transcribed by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC,
27 310 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
28 Phone 243-0668/Fax 243-1473

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1		
2	Opening remarks and Introductions	03
3	Mayor Wuerch Remarks	05
4		
	PUBLIC COMMENT	
5	Ms. Theresa Obermeyer	13
6	Ms. Amy LeFor	15
7	Ms. Adassa Zaire Amia	16
8	Ms. Gloria Sasieta	19/51
9	Ms. Hilary Morgan	22
10	Mr. David Sam	23
11	Mr. James Patlin	26
12	Ms. Phyllis Spencer-Relaski	28
13	Mr. Tony Vaska	29
14	Virgil K.	32/50
15	Pete	34
16	Mr. Charlie Goodwin	34
17	Mr. Jed Magby	35
18	Mayor Wuerch's Closing Comments	37
19	Deputy Chief Mew's Comments	40
20	Mr. Bruce Robert's Comments	42
21	Mr. Phil Reid's Comments	44
22	Mr. David Levy's Comments	49
23	Ms. Elaine Cooper's Comments	54
24	Reverend Greene's Closing Remarks	54
25	Adjournment	55

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 REVEREND GREENE: I want to say good
3 afternoon to all of you. Glad to have you this afternoon.
4 I'll give a brief introduction. The purpose of this forum
5 is to hear what the community has to say pertaining to
6 racism and discrimination. We would hope that you be frank
7 and opened. This data will be gathered and it will be
8 turned over to the various organizations, such as the
9 Governor's taskforce on Tolerance, the Mayor will have his
10 portion of it, the Assembly and the Equal Rights Commission
11 and the Human Rights Commission. And, hopefully, we can
12 gather the facts and come up with the solution to the
13 problem to make our city the greatest city in these United
14 States. The city of love and peace and unity.

15 Now, my name is Reverend Doctor William Greene. I
16 chair the Minority Community Public Relations Task Force
17 and I want to introduce those that are here and the Mayor
18 will give an introduction speech and we'll ask the rest of
19 the group here to introduce themselves after the Mayor
20 gives his introduction speech.

21 MAYOR WUERCH: You want me to start in now
22 or do you want to go around the table and have people
23 introduce themselves first?

24 REVEREND GREENE: We'll go around the table
25 and have people introduce themselves, come to the Mayor

1 last, we'll do it that way.

2 MR. BURGESS: My name is Tim Eurgess, I'm
3 the U.S. Attorney.

4 MR. R. EDDY: My name is Robert Eddy, I'm
5 the Director of U.S. Immigration for Alaska. I brought my
6 secretary, Florence Addison, who is sitting out here in the
7 audience today.

8 FATHER C. EDDY: We have two Eddys in a
9 row, I'm Chuck Eddy. Governor Knowles last week appointed
10 a commission on tolerance, and I'm chairman of that
11 commission.

12 MR. BURNHAM: I'm Bob Burnham, I'm the
13 Assistant Special Agent in charge of the FBI office here in
14 Anchorage.

15 MR. ROBERTS: I'm Bruce Roberts from the
16 City Prosecutor's Office, Anchorage.

17 MS. RAMOS: I'm Rita Ramos with the
18 Filipino community.

19 MR. REID: I'm Phil Reid, the Special Agent
20 in charge of the FBI in Alaska.

21 MS. COOPER: Elaine Cooper with the Native
22 community.

23 MR. LYOU: Chris Lyou, Korean American
24 Coalition.

25 MR. LEVY: I'm David Levy with the

1 Anchorage Equal Rights Commission and our court reporter is
2 sitting next to us here.

3 MAYOR WUERCH: And here's the Deputy Chief
4 of Police and it'll probably be easier on your ears if I
5 introduce the Deputy Chief of Police, Mark Mew, who's just
6 arrived.

7 Well, Pastor Greene, ladies and gentlemen, it's a
8 pleasure to be with you today, albeit the initiating events
9 that led up to this are not particularly pleasant to
10 reflect on. And more so because there's been a recent
11 event this week that is very troubling as far as violence
12 in our community. Shortly after the paintball incident
13 Pastor Greene and I had a conversation. I said, what can
14 we do as a community to bring together people in an
15 opportunity to talk about their frustrations, their
16 problems and their ideas of improvement.

17 We also, at the same time, went to the media and
18 Channel 2 actually stepped forward and offered to set up
19 and run a televised forum. They committed to an hour, it
20 was an hour that they did broadcast, but more importantly,
21 they spent about three and a half hours with that audience
22 that night in East High School. Because it's just
23 fundamentally important that we find ways, as a community,
24 to set our standards, to identify our fundamental
25 principles and ethics when it comes to race relations.

1 So it isn't just the paintball incident that causes
2 us to come together to talk about this. Talking about
3 racism and ways a community can pull together and overcome
4 these prejudices is not driven just by an incident, it's an
5 absolute must. It's something we have, as a community, to
6 do. And so it is in that spirit that I asked to
7 participate in whatever forum or opportunity we could think
8 of and have responded on several occasions.

9 I see Gil in the back of the room, I'm going to be
10 on his radio program Sunday night with Carol Comeau on KSKA
11 Public Radio. And that's 8:00 o'clock, isn't it, Gil?
12 Okay. So there's a little commercial, turn into KSKA
13 Sunday evening 8:00 p.m.

14 But to why we're here today. It's going to take
15 more than just conversation, however. We've really got to
16 change people's attitudes, to discourage the
17 discrimination. We got to change people's behavior. And
18 how do we find the mechanisms to do that? And that's why
19 we're here today is to talk about that. And we must be, as
20 a community, proactive in this. I'll be the first to say,
21 yes, we have racism in Anchorage, yes, we have racism in
22 Alaska. No, we do not accept that as a standard. We've
23 got to make changes, we've got to deal with that, continue
24 to deal with it. I'm also a realist to know that we'll
25 never eliminate it, it's the history of mankind. But the

1 point is we've got to make improvements on it and keep
2 working on it every day. This is not like opening a safe
3 where you dial a combination and say, wa-la, we fixed it.
4 It ain't going to happen, folks.

5 So you have joined me here today, I hope, in a
6 mutual effort to continue to strive for finding ways to
7 minimize and, if not, eliminate racism. But let me talk
8 about some of the things that I'm trying to do as your
9 Mayor within our administration. And I see Doug just came
10 into the back of the room, Doug Mills, who is part of our
11 executive staff. And a number of months ago I said, Doug,
12 I need your help, I think it's important for every single
13 individual employee of the city that's responsible for
14 other people, in other words, in simple words, supervisors
15 on up. If you're responsible for other people then you
16 need to have some sort of formal training in dealing with
17 diverse cultures and races. You need to have some formal
18 training in identifying what are the sensitive issues with
19 people of different backgrounds. What, through formal
20 training, you can do to create a positive work environment
21 so everyone is treated equally and has that same
22 opportunity regardless of race, creed or color.

23 Secondly, I'm trying very hard to set the standard.
24 You know in city government there's a variety of types of
25 employees, I'll just kind of go through that. There are

1 those that are represented by the five unions, those that
2 are career employees of the city, but are not represented
3 by a union, they're called non-reps. And then, lastly,
4 there's the executive appointees. In the first two
5 categories there's over 2,500, in the last category, execs,
6 there's about 140. For some reason all the lawyers are
7 execs, I don't know why. So take away the 30 lawyers and
8 you got a little over a hundred who are executives, in the
9 sense of the word, that are responsible for others. So by
10 July 1st Doug is going to give me a report, did we meet the
11 target of giving every supervisor and above formal training
12 in dealing with racial issues.

13 My appointments, to date, in that executive
14 category are about 30 percent, it changes as people come
15 and go a little bit, but I'm pretty proud of that. Our
16 population in Anchorage is about 27 percent minority and my
17 appointments, currently, are not a third, but at about 30
18 percent, so we're trying. We're trying to start right at
19 the executive level and set that as a goal. Then we go
20 through the various departments, as promotions and
21 opportunities are opened for others to move upward, we want
22 to make sure that everyone is considered equally and that
23 we have that diversity.

24 Secondly, I'm looking at the appointments of people
25 to boards and commissions. And as recently as, I think it

1 was, last week I called Pastor Greene for a particular
2 opportunity where I would like very much to find someone
3 from one of the other cultures to fill a slot on a board.
4 And he, as he has in the past, been very helpful in giving
5 me several ideas, either where to go to get some names or
6 given me names himself. And, Pastor Greene, I truly
7 appreciate that.

8 And, lastly, we're looking at ways of recognizing
9 our successes in race relations. We're looking at
10 incentive awards for employees that do exceptional work,
11 making sure that those are shared equally. We're looking
12 ways to just saying simply well done. I think you've all
13 heard me talk at various times about how we have migrated
14 into the electronic age in City Hall and we now use e-mail
15 instead of written memos that are passed from in baskets to
16 out baskets, we do it on the computer screen now. And
17 there isn't a day goes by that one of the department heads
18 doesn't send me an exchange of e-mail that says, this
19 person, by name, has done a pretty good job. And so I
20 always respond back to that individual and say, thank you,
21 well done.

22 Well, it's clear there's more to be done. I hope
23 today that we can have a productive dialogue and
24 discussion.

25 The other issue is about school safety. This is

1 pretty painful because it's so fresh, it just happened this
2 week. It's everyone's nightmare, whether you're a parent
3 or an aunt and uncle or a grandparent or just a neighbor.
4 To have children attacked on a school ground and in a
5 school, pursued inside the school by an assailant is just
6 something we never, ever wanted to have happen. And in
7 that tragedy, there really isn't any good news, but there
8 is reason to be proud of some very heroic people. And I
9 start with the teachers, two particularly, that confronted
10 the assailant head-on, physically, knocked him down. Took
11 a perforated milk carton and used it as a battering ram to
12 fend off this knife-wielding assailant.

13 Another teacher who broke out the window of the
14 classroom door so he could reach in and unlock it so help
15 could get in to help this one teacher and the assailant and
16 the little boy who was on the ground already cut. And
17 those actions, foregoing your own personal safety to step
18 in and save someone else, heroic measures.

19 The teachers who were out on the school ground when
20 they saw the children who were injured, applied immediate
21 first aid. Now, our firefighters EMTs were on scene within
22 four minutes but, you know, that first four minutes is so
23 critical and if the teachers who hadn't had that first aid
24 training, hadn't known how to apply pressure to a wound,
25 hadn't been there, we could have had a far worse result.

1 The other teachers, who because of the drill they
2 had just the week before on a lock-down, how to protect the
3 children in your classroom, hustled all those youngsters
4 out of the hallway and in the playground into a classroom
5 and locked their doors so the assailant couldn't get to
6 them. Because he could have gotten away and gone to
7 another classroom, but he didn't.

8 The police officers, the cool heads that prevailed.
9 We had four officers in that classroom armed with their
10 handguns and the fifth officer arrived with a non-lethal.
11 Now, you say, why didn't they just shoot the assailant with
12 their handgun? Well, there's a window behind him and the
13 playground outside and the neighbors and other children.
14 The potential of a stray round doing more damage is not one
15 you want to contemplate. But think of the tension and the
16 stress that was in that moment. And the fifth officer came
17 in and said, let me do this, with a less than lethal weapon
18 that fires these leather-covered beanbag projectiles that
19 are very powerful. Took three rounds, the first one to
20 spin him around, the second one to knock him down. He was
21 pulling chairs in to protect him, but he held the knife in
22 his hand and that third round, the officer was able to hit
23 his hand, fractured some bones and he dropped the weapon
24 and was secured. Incredible presence of mind. So, as
25 tragic as it was, we've got to give recognition to those

1 who saved some lives that day.

2 I think, Pastor Greene, it would be timely for me
3 to stop and say thank you to those who are participating
4 today. The Minority Community Police Relations Task Force
5 truly plays an important role in our community. You see
6 before you, ladies and gentlemen, the representation of
7 virtually every law enforcement, public safety entity in
8 this area. And the U.S. Attorney and the head of the FBI
9 for the entire state are here and are almost always here.
10 They're members, they participate and, of course, that
11 continue to be here including, I think, our own municipal
12 employees, David Levy and our police chief. Father Eddy,
13 it's good to see you. I'm going to have to get used to
14 addressing you in your retired capacity here, but Father
15 Eddy was pastor at St. Mary's Episcopal Church where my
16 wife and family and I have attended many, many times over
17 the last 20 years, so it's good to see you here, Father.

18 Pastor Greene, thank you for the opportunity to say
19 a few words.

20 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I
21 want to acknowledge Ms. Sandra Blair, who is Community
22 Relations Department of the Justice Department who is with
23 us this afternoon. Sandra, good to have you with us.

24 Now, without further ado, why don't those of you
25 who want to tell your story. Please adhere to three to

1 five minutes because we do have a lot of people that we do
2 want to hear. And we want to hear everyone this afternoon,
3 so why don't you come to the podium and.....

4 MS. OBERMEYER: Reverend Greene, may I
5 begin, sir? I have some candy bars for you. Theresa
6 Obermeyer. I have Hundred Grand candy bars because that's
7 how much money was just signed on my prosecution, Mayor,
8 that you signed. That was the second 100,000 of the
9 spring. The first was on February the 2nd. And I'd like
10 the people in the audience to pass these out, I just
11 brought one box.

12 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you, Er. Obermeyer.
13 David, would you keep the time for us? We will start now
14 with the three to five minutes.

15 MS. OBERMEYER: I'm going to hand these out
16 right here to you so that you can see the Mayor's
17 signature. I just wanted everyone to really have a good
18 laugh out of the 200,000 that has been spend on me. And my
19 husband is paid less than the secretary at the Municipal
20 Attorney's Office. What can the law be if it is not a good
21 example. The law where I live is a joke. And so I don't
22 have to say anything else, I will just pass these materials
23 and be seated. And you're very nice to let me say hello.

24 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you. Are you
25 finished, Dr. Obermeyer?

1 MS. OBERMEYER: Yes, sir. I just hope
2 you'll enjoy a good laugh with me. The law is a joke where
3 I live. Would you allow me, momentarily, to mention --
4 ladies and gentleman, when did integration occur? We can
5 remember in our great nation Brown versus the Board of
6 Education, 1954. Where I live our courts are not
7 integrated. We have a boy's club running our federal court
8 in Alaska and I have given the documents, of course, the
9 transcripts, Reverend Greene, to Webber and Patterson and
10 I've given them to Officer Mew and I hope that you gave
11 them to Chief Monegan, sir.

12 And, of course, what I do is I simply Xerox -- I am
13 a college administrator with a Ph.D., I live in a place
14 where our federal life-appointed judges are a boy's club.
15 There is no beginning with this kind of lack of belief in
16 American law. I really wanted to mainly say that.....

17 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, is an appropriate
18 listing of speakers that we should be following?

19 MS. OBERMEYER: You go right ahead, sir.
20 You come next.

21 REVEREND GREENE: What we're going to do is
22 we're going to start from the left side and we will start
23 at this side, those of you who want to come and tell your
24 story. You have three to five minutes, please. And we
25 will do it decently and in order.

1 MS. LeFOR: Hello, ladies and gentlemen.
2 This afternoon I brought an audit report done for our
3 Native corporations. In that audit report it does show the
4 misrepresentation of our board of directors and our execs.
5 The shareholders have been trying to get shareholder
6 protection rights for almost 30 years now, and we have
7 never been able to get them because our corporation execs
8 take and use and abuse our money without even shareholder
9 consent. There's no way we can fight our corporations
10 because they have the money, we don't. And it really
11 bothers me that all the shareholders of Alaska have to
12 listen to their execs rather than say their piece.

13 Another thing is I have two audits, one was done by
14 Hud Housing and there was supposed to be this skit done by
15 Hud Housing showing that the Natives were being depicted as
16 so poor that they were drinking out of slop buckets and
17 that the Hud Corporation was coming down to them as a Star
18 Trek generation to save us. No, I don't feel that's very
19 fair to the majority people of Alaska. We are so wronged.

20 Talk about the paintball issue, now, let me tell
21 you something, as far as I'm concerned that was blown up
22 totally. We have far more important issues than to worry
23 about teenagers shooting paintballs. We have to take care
24 of the people's wishes, not the big official's wishes.
25 This is our country, this is our state.

1 Now, please, get ahold of legislation and let them
2 know that we need shareholder protection rights for each
3 and every shareholder, otherwise we'll never get anywhere
4 within our corporations. And we, as shareholders, have
5 been losing our cultural, our rights and our living through
6 our execs and our corporation and I don't want to see that
7 happen any more. And I really appreciate all of you
8 listening to me, especially the board here. Please
9 consider these issues. And I will also show these other
10 reports to Mayor Wuerch.

11 Another thing is, I just got the CIRI update today
12 and it talks about our favorite director that got boosted
13 out of the chairman of the board. He was hushed up for a
14 quarter of a million dollars by the execs of the our
15 corporation. All these things are happening and we don't
16 have shareholder protection right whatsoever, we've got the
17 state, federal, Anchorage, we've gone everywhere. AFN
18 won't even bothering helping us and we are the rightful
19 owners.

20 Thank you very much.

21 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you, ma'am. Would
22 you give your first name and last name, please?

23 MS. LeFOR: My name is Amy L. LeFor, I'm
24 from Anchorage.

25 MS. AMIA: My name is Adassa Zaire Amia, I

1 prefer to go by my middle name, Zaire. And what I'd like
2 to talk about is in May, on the 5th, my children, three of
3 which all under the age of 18, the oldest one there at the
4 time was 16. When I got home from work on March the 5th my
5 daughter expressed to me that two police officers, one of
6 which, I guess, poses in the role of a U.S. Marshall, came
7 to my house looking for my daughter and they said that they
8 have a warrant for her. When I called to make an inquiry
9 as to what they wanted, I called the police department, I
10 left a message with this Officer or Detective Livingston,
11 and he never did respond with a phone or anything.

12 I filed a complaint with the police department, I
13 can't recall the -- but anyway, it's this Sergeant
14 Plumber's department is where I filed this complaint and he
15 told me he would pass it on. And to date I have called and
16 have left many messages and, once again to date, nobody has
17 responded.

18 I'm here to say that during the time when they were
19 initially looking for my daughter, claiming that she had
20 kidnapped -- I'm sure a lot of you have probably seen it in
21 the newspaper, seen it on television, and all that, where
22 they claim my daughter kidnapped her children. How she
23 going to kidnap her children, nobody took her children away
24 from her. The children were taken from my home unjustly.
25 And when I protested I was thrown in jail, didn't have no

1 paperwork, no warrant, no documentation signed by any judge
2 or anything else. I mean, you're supposed to be protected
3 by the Constitution of the United States, but I think
4 there's some corruptions and racketeering going on here in
5 this justice system.

6 Anyway, what DFYS did was they got this Detective
7 Livingston on the case. And what he did I think it was
8 very racial in its very essence. He took pictures of my
9 daughter and her children, he posted them in pawn shops and
10 liquor stores and other areas where unsavory people, if you
11 will for lack of a better term, patronize. And I thought
12 it was awfully, I don't know, I guess that was very
13 inappropriate. I mean, my daughter is not one to frequent
14 liquor stores or a pawn shop so, you know, I protested that
15 and I yet protest, but I kind of feel like this. I'm for
16 real. If you're looking for my daughter's children, you
17 need to be looking at me. Anybody interested?

18 Anyway, I'm here because I feel as though this
19 whole incident was racially motivated. And the DFYS worker
20 claims the reason why he came to my house with all those
21 officers that he came to my house with was a fear factor.
22 And I think there's something awfully wrong -- I got him on
23 videotape making that statement in a deposition. And think
24 there's something awfully wrong with this system that a
25 white man has got to be so fearful of a black woman that

1 he's got to come with three police officers.

2 MS. SASIETA: Good afternoon, my name is
3 Gloria Sasieta and I'm from Anchorage. And the reason why
4 I'm here today is because I have a teenage son who attends
5 Hanshew Middle School. The last incident that happened was
6 April 19th, which he was accused of threatening a teacher
7 to shoot him. I've been having for two years problems with
8 that school. And ever since last year when I started
9 realizing that the school has been discriminating my son
10 and harassing him and treating him bad, that's when I
11 started standing up and appealing everything that they were
12 accusing him with. And it seems like the last incident
13 that he got accused for was just to get him out of the
14 school system. It was, like, more to get him out of their
15 hair.

16 He was accused of threatening a teacher with
17 shooting him and it happened at a fourth period class on
18 April 19th, which it was a class full of students and only
19 person heard it, and that person was the person that say
20 that he threatened. Those kids sitting around him, nobody
21 else heard it. Nothing close to any comments in regards to
22 shooting or anything like that was in that incident. He
23 was handcuffed and taken out of the school without first
24 speaking to an adult and trying to find out what the
25 situation was about.

1 Well, first of all, when they said that he did the
2 incident was the fourth period class, they let him continue
3 to a fifth period class, sixth period class, that's when
4 they pulled him out. I'm thinking if they threatened with
5 a gun, with a weapon, to shoot a teacher, apparently I was
6 expecting for somebody to do something right away. I mean,
7 there would have been other kids hurt or any incident worse
8 could have happened if he really did have gun. And that
9 really worries me in how they proceed in this kind of
10 situation. I mean, they wait, sit around, and they
11 decided, well, sixth period, let's pull him out and do
12 something about it. By the time they pulled him, they
13 already had the news there, they had the police there. By
14 the time I got there he was already taken to McLaughlin.

15 There was another incident before that also which
16 they called the police for because they say that he had
17 assaulted a girl on a bus. There was more kids involved in
18 it, but somehow he was in the middle of this whole thing.
19 They decided to pick and have him be involved, so did some
20 community service and he had to pay a fine, which I still
21 believe that he wasn't at fault. He was there and at the
22 wrong time, I guess. And being that he's been labeled,
23 already, for two years, they decided to continue with that.

24 When I decided to take my kid to Hanshew was
25 because I thought it was a nice school, and people would

1 tell me he's not going to make it, he's not going to make
2 it, it's not what you think. I was raised in north New
3 Jersey, in a rough neighborhood, I know what's being
4 exposed to, drugs, violence and everything. I have
5 survived it and I have brought my kids out of that
6 situation to put them in a good environment, make sure that
7 they don't live what I had gone through. And I guess I
8 made a wrong choice of choosing, I guess, Hanshew, as a
9 school thinking that he would get an education.

10 But I have talked to everybody, I have done step by
11 step and it seems like nobody has really paid attention.
12 It was like another kid, you know, another kid and then
13 violent. So more likely they're saying minority kids to go
14 into the criminal world, you know. And, I guess, all my
15 concerns are for how Hanshew Middle School is treating
16 minority kids nowadays. There has been a lot of things
17 there and I would appreciate it if anybody can just take
18 time and look into it real deep because I really would not
19 like nobody else to go through what I have been going
20 through and still going through because he's been expelled
21 with no education right now.

22 I have three other kids which I have to put through
23 an education and I'm thinking this school system is not
24 really something that I can really trust nowadays, you just
25 can't pick and choose who you want to educate nowadays,

1 they're all kids and they're all the future. You don't
2 have to pick just because of their culture or, you know,
3 their experience, you know. I'm just concerned about how
4 this state is -- I'm confused. I'm sorry. Thank you.

5 MS. MORGAN: My name is Hilary Morgan, I am
6 the Director of RuralCAP's Homeward Bound Program. I also
7 chair the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission
8 for the municipality. And I just wanted to offer some
9 observations. I moved here nine years ago from five years
10 in Asia and eight years in New York City and when I first
11 came here I actually did not think that there was much
12 racism here compared to other places where I had lived. I
13 ran the Brother Francis Shelter for four years and still
14 didn't see the extent of the racism here until I began
15 working at Homeward Bound, where 88 percent of the
16 clientele who we serve are Alaska Native. And I was, and
17 have been, just astounded at the extent of the racism that
18 I have found here against Alaska Natives.

19 It's difficult because obviously I'm not Alaska
20 Native, but I think it's important to offer this
21 observation to you, that we have been in court where a
22 white person gets the exact charge that an Alaskan Native
23 person gets and gets a totally different degree of time in
24 jail or different options for alcohol treatment services,
25 outpatient, or whatever. And Alaskan Natives have a

1 difficult time getting employment here, getting any kind of
2 recognition when they come forward to say that there is
3 discrimination against them. And, certainly, the
4 population that I deal with, who are homeless, it's another
5 additional burden where you have five Alaska Native
6 homeless women who are murdered and it takes five of them
7 to be murdered before the community starts to become upset
8 and look into it.

9 The clientele that I work with are beaten on a
10 consistent basis by people in the community and it's very
11 difficult for them to come forward and to be believed when
12 they speak up. So I applaud the municipality, Mayor Wuerch
13 and the members of the panel here for having forums like
14 this and allowing people to testify and for you to hear how
15 deep the racism is here in Anchorage. And I think that the
16 more we continue to dialogue, hopefully we can find some
17 solutions for that. Thank you.

18 MR. SAM: I am Kukaan Quee Na Di (ph),
19 child of Kaah Waa Taan. And I say this probably with a
20 group of folks that have no idea what that means. And when
21 I came in there was a sign-up sheet, which I thought this
22 meeting was going to be run with some sort of decorum and
23 when I raised that issue with the Chair, and this woman,
24 who I have no idea who she is, comes over, the first thing
25 out of her mouth was you are prejudiced. And I signed up

1 not knowing whether or not I would speak. And I appreciate
2 the rhetoric that brought this meeting to happen today,
3 because we know that generations of our people have not
4 gotten a fair shake, that we have become invisible, to a
5 large degree, which raises the issue of institutional
6 racism. The education system is probably foremost on my
7 mind, the racism, the discrimination of the
8 disproportionate number of indigenous people that have been
9 forgotten, that have been pushed aside, that have been
10 questioned about their need for special education services
11 or not, which puts them in a difficult position right from
12 the beginning. And the racism that has come, that is very
13 apparent, and I'm sure you're going to find out is how
14 difficult it is to find out information about indigenous
15 people and the education achievement.

16 You go into the school system at any grade level,
17 elementary, secondary and post-secondary, and look how
18 difficult it is to find information about the achievement
19 of indigenous students. The question is why is that?
20 Mayor Wuerch spoke of technological advancement and I guess
21 it's part of that garbage in/garbage out when you're taking
22 a look at data. Do we have indigenous people that would
23 offer some suggestions on how to put information in that
24 folks can go in and take a look at the achievement of our
25 indigenous students? I know they're there, we have

1 tremendous advancement in the education.

2 We have a university that has chosen to hide behind
3 a 1st Amendment or whatever it was in taking a look at -- I
4 want to be careful, I guess, and that's the cautiousness
5 around racism in this community, about naming individuals
6 when, in fact, it might be institutional. Our people are
7 getting turned away left and right from getting decent
8 attention in the education system, fair attention, as far
9 as their achievement. And so we need your help to take a
10 look at this issue because it shows up a little later.

11 There was letters to the editor this morning that
12 sort of raised some issues in this community about
13 particular news that was put out about the appearance for a
14 Native person, which raised a lot of issues for me. The
15 killing of a Native man a couple of weeks ago on the
16 highway is rather disturbing. No mention of him being
17 Native or not. And, again, because we're so diverse some
18 folks may not appear to be Native. I give that. But
19 there's no mention of him being Native.

20 And then this incident at a local school, rather
21 disturbing. And there was some reference earlier today
22 about, you know, you don't believe something unless you see
23 it. Or is it unless you see something you don't believe
24 it. And you have to believe something in order to see it.
25 So we come at a very difficult time. My thought after the

1 incident was is the only good Native person is one that
2 slashes, is one that beats his wife, is one that causes a
3 problem in this society. Rather disturbing. Thank you for
4 your time.

5 MR. PATLIN: Good afternoon, my name is
6 James Patlin, most of you folks know me, and those that do
7 know I don't hold nothing back. Anchorage is racist, we're
8 falling backwards, folks. You guys don't see it because
9 you don't walk the streets every day and every night.
10 Mountain View, Fairview, Spenard, all the districts in the
11 municipality is not up to par, we're 20 years, if not more,
12 behind times. The racial issues, the overtones, the
13 undertones, the actuality of it is alive.

14 Here's one for you, folks, that actually exists,
15 and I've got evidence, if anybody wants to see it, come on.
16 There was a gentleman across the school Tuesday morning
17 that had a bag full of weapons, knife weapons. This
18 caucasian gentleman had a bagful of weapons, knives, very
19 sharp, throwing stars, boat knives, even some oriental
20 fighting equipment. He made a statement, I was standing
21 there, that he was there to continue the job that
22 Mr. Pritchard set out to do. The police department went
23 through his bags, nothing but weapons. Then he run across
24 the street and tried to get in the school. We asked the
25 officers why ain't they going to do anything? They said

1 because he did not commit a crime. He made a statement he
2 was there to finish the job. A caucasian guy.

3 If I walked over there with a bagful of weapons I'd
4 probably be locked up, why did this happen? The feelings
5 in that community is that because he was white. Maybe he
6 wasn't, maybe it's the legal parameters that because he
7 didn't do nothing, they couldn't do nothing. If I had the
8 weapons, I'd be locked up, folks. The feeling is, and
9 there is a lot of underground meetings going on, that
10 racism against dark people is happening. It goes on, it
11 exists, nobody really cares.

12 There's another individual over there who is trying
13 to bring together all the minority communities, the 16
14 diverse languages, et cetera, pulling these people together
15 and all of a sudden he's being brought to court for helping
16 these people when they had that fire that put a hundred
17 people on the street, sleeping in the Boys and Girls Club,
18 the kids in school with no clothes. He actually helped
19 these people, pulled them together, gave them money to help
20 the kids that were going to school. Now he's being
21 persecuted and being brought up on charges of theft when
22 his name was on the bank account and actually took money to
23 these families. He's a Native guy. Now he's going to be
24 charged with helping. This is going on, nobody hears.

25 This meeting today about racial tensions. There's

1 no communication on the street. One little paragraph in
2 today's newspaper. How come and why? Why you folks didn't
3 logistically get this communication to the minority
4 communities; how come all of a sudden it just came out
5 today? I heard about this from some lady calling me about
6 something completely different. She said, oh, did you know
7 about this meeting today? I said, no, I did not. Did the
8 NAACP hear about this; did AFN hear about this?

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

10 MR. PATLIN: Great, I'm glad to see it,
11 ma'am. Where's our people at? How come nobody told the
12 churches? How come nobody integrated this information
13 down? It's not a conspiracy, is it? I sure the heck hope
14 not. We will be seeing you folks again. Thank you.

15 MS. SPENCER-RELASKI: My name is Phyllis
16 Spencer-Relaski and my sister and I have form a group
17 called Makika (ph) and Let Us Stand. And we have a group
18 of volunteers who are willing to go into the community,
19 into the schools and educate the children about our
20 heritage. I'm half Eskimo. As well as the other -- any
21 one else from any other heritage that would want to
22 volunteer. Basically asking permission, I don't know who
23 to contact. But if you'd like, I can give you my number.

24 Also, I wanted to briefly comment on what the
25 gentleman that just got done speaking has said, and it

1 struck me, and I thought, well, that's not right. Here we
2 got an adult male standing across the street from a
3 playground or school with a bagful of weapons. An adult
4 male and this lady over here has a minor son, a minor son,
5 in school, a student and he was arrested for threatening
6 with no weapons. What's the difference there? What
7 happened? I don't think that's right, I really don't. And
8 basically I just wanted to bring that up and maybe raise a
9 few questions in your mind as well.

10 MR. VASKA: Good afternoon, my name is
11 Tony Vaska and it's not a Hispanic name. I'm Yup'ik Eskimo
12 from the Bethel area. I think most of the people who
13 wanted to come up and talk to you about what happens when
14 racist comments or activities happen on the street, in
15 restaurants, in bars happens, it really does. I've been at
16 the receiving end of many of those. Is there racial
17 profiling? Yeah. I have the names of six different cops,
18 all of them caucasian, who stopped me for no particular
19 reason. And I haven't gotten a ticket, I haven't gotten a
20 moving violation, I don't even get parking tickets.

21 When I look at indications of racism it's easy to
22 find. You have a gentleman here from the Human Rights
23 Commission who can look at racism in housing. He can give
24 you background information of people wanting to buy or
25 rent, people of color being denied. But over the phone I

1 can get away with it because I have only a trace of an
2 accent. When I'm dressed like this, people are more
3 willing to talk to me, if I come in my grubbies, I'm just
4 another one of those brown folks on the street. You need
5 to gather information like that.

6 Other indicators of racist. Mr. Sam brought up the
7 issue of the university, that's a good place to start. For
8 a long time I worked in employment and training programs
9 and we looked at the percentage of Alaska Natives hired by
10 public institutions. There are over 14,000 federal
11 employees in the state of Alaska, less than four percent
12 Alaska Natives. I don't know how many employees there are
13 in Anchorage, I've forgotten the number, but in the top
14 administration I only see the Chief of Police there, and
15 he's been there for a long time. Other parts of the
16 administration, zero. I know I've worked with that. And
17 if they're there, they're entry-level positions for the
18 most part.

19 There was a mention of Hud in the program, the
20 Office of Native American Programs, one entry-level
21 position here in Alaska. And Alaska Natives makes 17
22 percent of the Alaska Native population. I know, I was in
23 charge of promoting Census 2000 the last three years.

24 So you look at indications of what is going on here
25 in the state. A lot of Alaska Natives are feeling

1 displaced in their own homeland. It's not just the school
2 district, the city government, the state government, it's
3 almost everywhere. And it's really sad. And I came here
4 very pessimistic about what it is that you can do.

5 I was on the previous administration's task force
6 for recruiting minority people, we had a good working
7 group. That no longer exists. We looked at the fire
8 department, the police department, and the city
9 administration. That committee ended with only looking at
10 the fire department and the police department. There's so
11 few Alaska Natives, so few other minorities in those
12 agencies, and they're good high paying jobs. And it needs
13 to start with education.

14 Let me tell you, I'm not a CIRI shareholder, I
15 didn't get all that money, that's limited to one
16 corporation, there are 13. But in terms of relationship of
17 Alaska Natives to the rest of the country it's more than
18 just a racial difference, it's a total political
19 difference. And the reason there is something called the
20 Alaska Native Medical Center, the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
21 is because it's that political relationship between the
22 federal government and Native people in this country. And
23 so few people understand that relationship that you hear
24 remarks like, I applied for a job with the federal
25 government two years ago, they want to know I wanted health

1 insurance because they didn't think I needed it because
2 ANMC was here in Anchorage.

3 It's things like that that you need to address on a
4 consistent and regular basis. And I thank you for my time.

5 VIRGIL K: Hello, my name is Virgil K. And
6 I just came from Homeward Bound. Later on today they'll be
7 transporting me out to detox for five days and then later
8 I'm going to the Hudson Lake Alcohol Treatment Program for
9 30 days. Last night me and two friends of mine were
10 walking through the Parkstrip about 11:00 o'clock at night
11 and we were just talking and laughing. And suddenly from
12 behind four bicycles came up behind us and we didn't hear
13 them and they were four young 13- to 14-year-old white
14 boys. Without any provocation from us one of them reached
15 out and punched my friend Marty from behind and he's got a
16 big swollen eye now. He's out at Homeward Bound right now
17 waiting with my other friend. We all turned around, all
18 three of us, with our backs to each other and said, come
19 on, is that all you got? And one of them came over and
20 kicked my other friend, Pete, and he went down and I took
21 off my belt. I said, come on. I stood over my friend, he
22 was on the ground and I was swinging my belt, 11:00 o'clock
23 at night right on the Parkstrip. And I said, come on, you
24 might be able to kill me but I'll never, ever be afraid of
25 you. I'm not afraid of any person.

1 Before I meet anyone I assume they're good and if
2 they show me otherwise, it's up to me not to be around them
3 and associate with them. We did nothing to provoke that
4 attack. And that's not the first time. Two weeks ago I
5 was walking to the shelter from Sleep Off and I was about a
6 block away from Sleep Off walking alone and here came this
7 car toward me and next thing I know there was a full glass
8 bottle of beer sailing within six inches of my head. They
9 were doing 45 to 50 miles an hour, so that full bottle of
10 beer was, too. If it had hit me I don't know if I'd be six
11 feet under right now or in Alaska Native Medical Center. I
12 didn't ask for that. I did nothing. And after they drove
13 past I could hear them laughing in there, you almost got
14 that one. Let's go around the block try again. So I
15 started running for the shelter.

16 And last night we told CSP workers there what
17 happened in the park and they didn't get ahold of the
18 police. The police eventually came, but they came to take
19 a routy person from Sleep Off to 12-hour hold. These young
20 people need to be educated. They need to be taught
21 tolerance. We can't help our lifestyle. We don't bother
22 anyone. And when one of us falls off to the side, one of
23 us finds a phone, call 911 and tell them where he's at, or
24 her.

25 Right now I'm in the process of surrender. I will

1 fight alcohol no more forever. I have a son who is going
2 to be three years old on June 3rd and I promised his mom
3 I'd take him to the Alaska Zoo and those little racing
4 cars. I'm going to have to break that promise because I'll
5 be in treatment. I want more than anything to be there for
6 Zachariah's birthday and keep my promise. I'll keep that
7 promise, I'll just be a little late because on his birthday
8 I'll be in treatment. Thank you.

9 PETE: Hello, my name is Pete, I'm from
10 Homeward Bound. And this morning reading the paper that
11 one of our leaders, Mr. Murkowski, it looked like he
12 advised the Natives not to speak out against racial toward
13 the United States Commission. That we be a leading point
14 in ethnic groups that opens other groups towards ideology
15 racism begins the undermining of the United States. I
16 think that is wrong. Thank you.

17 MR. GOODWIN: Hi, my name is Charlie
18 Goodwin and I'm from Kotzebue. And recently, in October, I
19 got hit by a car. This lady come straight at me with her
20 lights off and I didn't see her coming. It happened in a
21 parking lot. So she broke both of my knees. I had to
22 spend Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years in
23 hospital because of my legs. And during that time my aunt,
24 she's from Kotzebue, too, she got hit by a car, but she was
25 way worse than me. And my nephew, Morgan Goshay (ph), down

1 in Muldoon, a couple of caucasian kids picked him up for a
2 ride, they took him to Big Lake and they murdered him. He
3 was in the papers.

4 I don't think it's right for, you know, us Natives,
5 not only us Natives, other people to get beaten up like
6 that. When I got hit that lady said, oh, my God, I hit
7 him, I actually hit him, so she know what she was doing.
8 She come straight at me with her lights off. And my legs
9 still bother me and I can't go to work for a while. But
10 there are things like that happening. The other time, last
11 month, me and my friend, Barney Willard, went to Homeward
12 Bound, we were at the mini bus stop and we were just
13 standing there waiting for the bus and here comes a whole
14 bunch of kids. They grab a garbage can and they dumped it
15 right on Barney's head and then they pushed me down on the
16 ground and started kicking me. We couldn't defend
17 ourselves because there were too many of those kids there.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MAGBY: Ladies and gentlemen, my name
20 is Jed Magby. I got real upset the other day when there
21 was that stabbing at the school. The media went haywire,
22 the Native stabbing, the Native this, the Native now
23 apprehended, they just really went loose with the moniker,
24 Native. This Native racial discrimination issue is real.
25 One good example is when my mother, her freezer broke down,

1 we had to rent a locker at 10th and M Seafoods. She was
2 down there trying to get some fish out of her lockers and
3 this big white guy, now, my mom's a little bitty lady, and
4 this big white guy standing on the side, looked down at
5 her, I thought you Natives were for subsistence. If I were
6 there I don't think he would have said that. I wish I had
7 been there when he'd said that. That kind of attitude
8 should not be allowed to run ramped. They teach that kind
9 of attitude to the kids, they bring it to school, the kids
10 don't need to be taught like that. Thank you much.

11 REVEREND GREENE: Anybody else care to
12 speak?

13 MS. LeFOR: May I ask a question?

14 REVEREND GREENE: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. LeFOR: What happens now that you've
16 had all this information on the discrimination of the
17 Native peoples? It's not only happening to the Native
18 peoples, it's happening to the blacks, the Hispanics and
19 any other race than white. Why is this happening in our
20 country? I do not believe that it should be allowed and
21 that our leaders in Anchorage and Alaska should address it
22 and take care of it and pass some laws that would take care
23 of some of these people that, you know, they have the
24 opportunity and the right do what is totally wrong. Thank
25 you.

1 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you. It is our
2 intention to take this data and turn it over to people of
3 the various commissions that have been established on
4 racism in this community, and the state of Alaska and a
5 copy will be turned over to the Assembly people, the Human
6 Rights Division and the Governor's commission that he has
7 established and the various municipalities.

8 Any other speaker?

9 (No audible responses)

10 REVEREND GREENE: If not, this will
11 conclude our speakers and I will turn it over to the Mayor.

12 MAYOR WUERCH: Well, Mr. Chairman, thank
13 you for the opportunity to host this meeting and to the
14 Task Force for your continued service. I think we've heard
15 some very eloquent expressions of frustration and pain and
16 anger. And, in addition to that, we've heard a few
17 recitals of specific instances that maybe we can get to the
18 bottom of, maybe we can't. The broader question is where
19 do we go from here? It's pretty clear we have to face the
20 problem. It's pretty clear that there is a problem. And
21 many people are yet denying it. But that's why we're here,
22 you know, why have the meeting? We need to broaden the
23 awareness, we need to broaden the message that we accept
24 responsibility for that. There's no easy fix.

25 Let me give you a couple of specifics. It troubles

1 me that the Community Service Patrol that operates the
2 Sleep Off Center didn't call APD and report the assault on
3 the Parkstrip. Four youngsters riding around on bicycles
4 at 11:00 o'clock at night shouldn't be too hard to find.
5 Probably have a one out of four chance of finding them.
6 But if we had just had a blue and white stop them and
7 counsel them about, you know, we just had a report, we
8 don't know whether you did it or didn't do it. But let me
9 tell you what that really means. Consequences for actions
10 are fundamental and too often we miss that point. And
11 young people may be too sheltered in this day and age from
12 the reality that their actions do have consequences.

13 We talked about -- well, I don't want to get into
14 individual specifics here, I took some notes. The case of
15 Sergeant Plumber, who I believe, at this point, is still
16 Internal Affairs; is that right?

17 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: Yes.

18 MAYOR WUERCH: And an allegation from March
19 5th. We can go to that case, we can look that up. The
20 case with the school, we can confer with the school
21 district and pass that on to the school at Hanshew, the
22 middle school. Homeward Bound, Hilary Morgan, God bless
23 your heart, thanks for coming out here today. Hilary and I
24 shared the same table at Channel 2's forum and here is a
25 young woman who's done an incredible amount of good for our

1 community. But her voice needs to be heard, but she's
2 taking the time and the energy to come out and to forums,
3 like this, to repeat that story.

4 The many of you who have testified today and we've
5 shared your pain. Thank you. It's not easy to stand up
6 and talk about the injustice that's been performed and
7 vented on you as an individual and members of your family.
8 The story about weapons at the Mountain View Elementary
9 School the morning after, actually, James, I'd like to know
10 a little more about that. Where did you go?

11 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: I know about that one.

12 MAYOR WUERCH: You can help me with that,
13 okay. We'll take that up. Because I was at the school
14 Tuesday morning. I spent about three hours out there
15 talking with the neighbors and the parents and the
16 relatives at the curbside. Went into the library and met
17 with the group as a whole, with the Superintendent of
18 Schools, Carol Comeau. At the same time, the parents were
19 meeting with the psychological counselors and their
20 children. Extraordinarily difficult time. The night
21 before I was at Providence Hospital with the parents of
22 each of the four children and that's not an experience you
23 want to go through. We do not want that to be repeated.
24 But it's important to be there, be a part of finding out
25 what we have to do to prevent that from happening again.

1 So, Pastor Greene, thank you so much. I don't know
2 if other members of your Task Force have an opportunity to
3 express a few words, but maybe we could.

4 REVEREND GREENE: We'll start with the
5 Deputy Chief and hear some comments from the Council.

6 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: I wanted to comment a
7 little bit about the man who was seen across the street
8 from the school on Tuesday, the day after the stabbing at
9 Mountain View Elementary. We had three contacts, I know we
10 had two contacts, possibly three, with that individual. I
11 contacted him myself, along with the Chief. On the first
12 occasion we told him if he came to the school property he
13 would be arrested. His demeanor was upsetting to the
14 school, he wasn't making any threats in our presence. We
15 could not substantiate that he committed any crime. His
16 comments, while upsetting, were not threatening. He didn't
17 threaten to harm anybody. I can't tell you if we searched
18 his bag on that occasion or not. I know that he left the
19 school premises, stayed down the street for some time. He
20 moved closer to the school when I was leaving the school
21 about noon. I approached him and talked to him for
22 probably 10 minutes. He wasn't committing a crime then, I
23 had no reason to arrest him. I could not make him leave a
24 public street.

25 He did not want me to search his bag, but the Chief

1 and I did convince him to leave. A short time after that I
2 heard officers dispatched to a man that sounded on the
3 dispatch tape to be the same fellow, a few blocks away.
4 And I heard later in the day that we had a made an arrest,
5 so he must have, at that point, done something that gave us
6 cause to arrest him. Now, I can't say that for certain, I
7 haven't gone back and pulled the report and verified
8 completely, a hundred percent, that this all adds up and he
9 actually went to jail to date, but that was the information
10 that I a few days ago. So I think he ended up going to
11 jail.

12 But what I can tell you on the first two occasions
13 that we contacted him, we could not substantiate he
14 committed any crime. Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. LeFOR: Yes, I'd like to know why he
16 was not in API if he was so dangerous? Why was one of our
17 subsidiaries supposed to be taking care of this man
18 involved in it when he should have been in API?

19 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: Ma'am, I don't know that
20 he is dangerous.

21 MS. LeFOR: Look at what he done to the
22 children.

23 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought
24 you were referring to the man with the beret and the bag.

25 MS. LeFOR: Oh, no, I'm talking about the

1 guy that wielded the knife. Why was he not in API?

2 DEPUTY CHIEF MEW: He has a history and I
3 think that history will be addressed in the future, and I
4 don't think I should comment on that any more than it's
5 already been in the paper. The District Attorney probably
6 wants to weigh in on how much information we put out.

7 MS. LeFOR: The only time we ever hear
8 about these things is in the paper and that's bias.

9 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you, Deputy Chief.
10 Any other comments?

11 MR. ROBERTS: I don't have a lot to add, I
12 might be able to answer one of your questions, ma'am, if
13 you want to stay. The gentleman that was alleged to have
14 been carrying a lot of weapons in a bag, in fact, was
15 arrested. APD contacted our office, the City's
16 Prosecutor's office, consulted them regarding what offense,
17 if any, he had actually committed. The matter was
18 reviewed, an arrest was authorized, the bag was seized, the
19 weapons were seized and he was arrested. The case is being
20 reviewed for what additional charges can be filed. Richard
21 Feldon advised me of this when I came into the office, I
22 thought it was yesterday morning, but maybe it was Tuesday.

23 Ma'am, police reports contain information that are
24 by law confidential and we're not allowed to discuss those
25 matters. However, when that man was arraigned, the judge

1 asks us for a factual basis or some information to
2 establish what's called probable cause to make an arrest or
3 file a charge. We then give that information to the court.
4 That, then, becomes public record. So all the information
5 that you hear or you can obtain from the courthouse which,
6 one, when it's the District Attorney's charge, is the
7 information that usually gives you a detailed report and a
8 couple of pages about what's happened. Or, in our case, we
9 give an oral recitation to the judge about what happened.
10 There may be things that will come up about the person's
11 past in regard to whether bail is appropriate or if bail is
12 going to be set, what type of bail. And all of those
13 things can be obtained as a public record down at the
14 courthouse. But we, the lawyers, the prosecutors, are
15 under an obligation not to divulge that information. The
16 police department is under the same obligation not to
17 release that confidential information. The information
18 only goes to the defendant or the defendant's lawyer. Now,
19 they can release that information, but they generally
20 don't. So, anyway, that's the situation why you don't hear
21 more about it, you hear what you learn in the newspaper.
22 Sometimes that's when we hear about it, too.

23 MS. LeFOR: As for public records, where do
24 I get the information?

25 MR. ROBERTS: Whenever a person is brought

1 before the court there's a hearing record. It helps to
2 know the person's name and, of course, other things like a
3 case number or the date. What that record does is provide
4 you with the tape number, because, like this proceeding
5 here is being taped. There's a recording of the entire
6 proceeding, so it gives you the log and the tape number
7 which you can then go down to somewhere in the courthouse,
8 called Transcripts, and you can ask them for a copy of that
9 proceeding. So you can get a copy of any proceeding which
10 is a public matter. Juvenile matters are closed and you
11 can't get copies of those tapes without a court order. All
12 other matters are available for you, all you have to do is
13 ask for them.

14 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you very much. Any
15 other comments?

16 MR. REID: Thank you, Reverend Greene and
17 Mayor Wuerch. I'm Phil Reid, Special Agent in charge of
18 the FBI here in Alaska. As most of you know, over the past
19 six months the FBI has initiated two hate crime
20 investigations, one involving the Native women murders, as
21 well as the paintball attacks. The reports are to be
22 completed within 21 days and we forward those reports to
23 the Department of Justice and it's up to the Department of
24 Justice to review those reports and make a determination
25 whether or not prosecution is to be pursued. In most of

1 those instances when we do those reports the Department of
2 Justice refrains from pursuing prosecution and basically
3 leaves it up to the state, in most instances the states
4 pursue prosecution. And it's only in those cases where the
5 federal government, the Department of Justice, believes
6 that the state should pursue prosecution, and doesn't, is
7 when they actually step in and pursue prosecution, as
8 happened in the Rodney King case.

9 On the flip side of those hate crimes
10 investigations, the FBI conducts criminal investigations in
11 support of, in this case, Anchorage Police Department's
12 investigation into the murders, into the paintball
13 investigation, as well as in addition to that the rapes of
14 the Native women. We provide resources such as we have a
15 Safe Streets Task Force whose mission is to investigate and
16 address violent street crime and gang problems. The Safe
17 Streets Task Force consists of representatives of federal,
18 state and local law enforcement agencies, which includes
19 officers from the Anchorage Police Department. We also
20 provide forensic support and, in some of the cases, we
21 provide profiling support to these investigations.

22 The FBI also has a statutory requirement to ensure
23 that national crime reports are produced on a yearly basis
24 and we do this through the Uniform Crime Reporting System.
25 We also do this for hate crimes and every year, on a yearly

1 basis, we produce a hate crime statistical report. And one
2 of the things we've noticed here in Alaska, particularly
3 since 1995, there has been a noticeable decrease in
4 incidents of hate crime. In 1995 there were 15 incidents
5 and in 1999 there were six. Now, we aren't sure whether
6 this decrease is basically the result of under reporting of
7 these incidents. As a concern, in about a week and a half
8 we're bringing in agents from our Hate Crimes Unit at
9 headquarters to provide hate crimes investigative training
10 to law enforcement officers from the different departments
11 throughout the state of Alaska, including state troopers.
12 Just to ensure that hate crime incidents are, in fact,
13 being reported and that we all understand how to report
14 hate crime incidents.

15 One of the other issues that I think we should
16 bring to light here is that we, the FBI, view hate groups
17 as potential domestic terrorists and the way we keep an eye
18 on and monitor these groups is we have a Domestic Terrorism
19 Working Group that meets on a quarterly basis and that
20 Domestic Terrorism Working Group are representatives of the
21 various state and local law enforcement agencies throughout
22 Alaska. We do have hate groups in Alaska as you do across
23 the Lower 48. I think probably over the last couple of
24 months you may have seen some flyers being passed out on
25 some of the windshields of some of your cars. The Domestic

1 Terrorism Working Group, we get together and we share
2 intelligence and we share information.

3 The good news is that none of these groups, to
4 date, have committed any crimes. And because of our
5 Attorney General guidelines, because they haven't committed
6 any crimes, we cannot investigate them, but we do monitor
7 those groups, we are aware of them and some of them you may
8 even see on your Websites. They have Websites. But in the
9 event you become of aware of any information regarding any
10 hate groups, you should let the FBI become aware of it or
11 any of your state and local law enforcement agencies, make
12 sure that they're aware of those. Question?

13 MR. MAGBY: One of the concerns of mine the
14 other day, whenever the stabbing at the school took place.
15 And you're with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is I
16 feel that there should be an investigation concerning the
17 inflammatory Native label they taped to the incident. My
18 concern or what I think is when did that 33-year-old male
19 suspect who was apprehended, when did that 33-year-old male
20 suspect, who iterated and labeled him the 33 Native, you
21 know, why does he have to become the Native suspect? My
22 concern is I took this personally. I'm a noon duty at one
23 of these schools here in Anchorage, I was driving in from
24 Palmer when I was hearing this on the news and, you know,
25 that was shocking, you know, it makes you aware of the

1 vulnerabilities of the schools, but I felt like it was
2 directed towards me personally whenever people were driving
3 by the school grounds, slowing down to look at this Native
4 in the playground with the kids. I mean, folks are calling
5 my mom from down in the States because they have heard on
6 the news that there was a Native male slashing kids at the
7 school, when they are calling my mom and asking was that
8 your son? I take this personally. It was like all them
9 remarks were aimed at me. You know, that was unnecessary.
10 You know, I almost feel like there should be criminal
11 charges of slander and liable brought up in this incident.
12 This is all personally directed at me. So when in the
13 first issue of that report, before it hit the airways, when
14 did that 33-year-old male apprehended become a 33-year-old
15 Native?

16 MR. REID: Unfortunately I can't answer
17 that question, but maybe the Mayor can.

18 MAYOR WUERCH: I can tell you when it
19 didn't get released. It was not released by the municipal
20 administration, but when they get to the charging document
21 that is when it goes before the judge and all the facts
22 have to be disclosed but in no release to the media from
23 the Anchorage Police Department, the school district or the
24 Municipal Mayor's office was there any racial affiliation
25 to either the assailant or the victims. And that was not a

1 part of any conversation we had, so I can't answer you
2 when, I can only offer you, I suspect, that the time as
3 Bruce Roberts, the Municipal Prosecutor, identified a
4 minute ago, when it goes before the judge for the charging,
5 that's when all those facts have to be disclosed. And that
6 is a public process and the media, represented by some here
7 today, have full access to that.

8 MR. MAGBY: All right. But I believe the
9 media should account for themselves and they're the ones
10 who went crazy with this thing, their the ones who took the
11 ball and ran and I think they should be confronted about
12 this issue. I think they should take responsibility for
13 this and, like I say, I am considering court charges on
14 this, because that was directed at me.

15 MAYOR WUERCH: Thank you for your comments.
16 Mr. Chair, could we have David talk a little bit about his
17 function and how he serves the community?

18 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
19 Good idea. We want Mr. Levy to comment, tell you a little
20 bit about his function and how he represents the community.
21 And we would encourage you to please, if you have any
22 problems or situations that need to be heard, to talk to
23 Mr. Levy.

24 MR. LEVY: Well, as the Pastor said, I'm
25 David Levy, I'm the Executive Director of the Anchorage

1 Equal Rights Commission. I really don't have much to say,
2 which is kind of unusual for me, but Reverend Greene asked
3 me to talk a little bit about what the Equal Rights
4 Commission does. And Paula Haley is here from the State
5 Commission on Human Rights and she represents the state of
6 Alaska.

7 The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, in brief,
8 investigates allegations of discrimination based on race
9 and sex and marital status, natural origin, religion,
10 physical and mental instability and we look into areas of
11 discrimination in housing and employment, all those
12 accommodations, educational institutions, financial
13 institutions and programs and services by the municipality.
14 Not really here to talk about the Commission as much as to
15 let you know, for those who talked today, that as Reverend
16 Greene pointed out, the information here is going to be put
17 into a report and presented to both the Mayor and the
18 Assembly, as well as a copy provided to the Governor's
19 Commission, as well as the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

20 I encourage you over the next five to six months,
21 there will be plenty of opportunities to have your voices
22 heard, and I think you need to take this opportunity to
23 hold all of us accountable. It's my understanding that the
24 Governor's Commission will be holding some formal hearings
25 over the summer and the fall, as well as the U.S.

1 Commission on Civil Rights. And I think it's a good
2 opportunity for folks to lift their voices to be heard.

3 VIRGIL K: Your Honor, ladies and
4 gentlemen, I'd like to make two recommendations to the new
5 contractor holders at Community Sleep Off. One, when
6 someone comes in with obvious signs of violence, they find
7 out what happened and not only find out what happened, but
8 report it to the police. The police are right next-door.

9 And, number two, they're new and they don't know
10 our habits and what we do and sometimes they'll release a
11 lone individual about three, 4:00 o'clock in the morning to
12 make that long walk to the shelter. I'd like for Community
13 Service Patrol to not let anyone alone out at that time of
14 the morning, it is dangerous and there's people out there
15 at that time of the morning that prey on homeless people.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. SASIETA: My name is Gloria Sasieta,
18 I'm from Anchorage. I just wanted to bring something up.
19 When my son was taken to McLaughlin and I had to pick him
20 up there, one of the intake officers brought to my
21 attention that he was not the only one that was brought in
22 for threats, shooting threats, something similar to that.
23 I don't see nothing on no TV or in the media coming out to
24 where this kid from Chugach was picked up for the same kind
25 of thing. I don't see how the school let this kid continue

1 going through the rest of the classes jeopardizing -- well,
2 so-called he had a weapon, go through the rest of the
3 classes and then pick him up. It seemed like everything
4 was set up or something like that.

5 But another thing, we had another call from the
6 detectives to our home saying that we had made theoretic
7 threats to the schools that we were coming down, family
8 members, to the school, this came from the detectives. My
9 sister who answered the call said, well, if you're saying
10 that we're making this, why don't you follow up and trace
11 the calls before you come and make comments like that.
12 When I took my son on Friday for intake to MYC they said
13 there was things on file stating that there were calls from
14 us going that we were threatening the school and we were
15 going to come down and shoot. I mean, they were making
16 things seem like they were stereotyping us because they
17 were expecting us to do something big.

18 I was educated in this country and I know how to
19 proceed in an educational way and in manner where I want to
20 be heard. I don't want to be seen as a person coming loud
21 and just making things like, hey, there goes this Spanish
22 girl, or Willie's mom, she's going to make this big thing,
23 you know, or things like that. I mean, I've been taking it
24 step by step, I have even spoken to one of the legislatures
25 in regards to this whole case and she's been following

1 through, Lisa McGuire, and I have been faxing her stuff
2 down to her office.

3 I mean, what I want, if you can investigate this, I
4 want my son's education back to normal, I want my life back
5 to normal. I want most of those accusations they have done
6 to our family stopped. I mean, he has been around this
7 school for so long there's kids in that school that know
8 him. There's kids that have said to me that even is Willie
9 is on the other side the school they'll blame him before
10 they blame anybody else. I mean, you have to follow Willie
11 through this whole thing and see if it's really, you know,
12 true that it's going on. I mean, I don't want to see no
13 other family go through what I'm going through right now.
14 And I would appreciate if very much if you look into it and
15 try to figure out how can I get my kid back his education.
16 It's two years that they have been messing and harassing
17 him. I mean, I remember my teenage years, going through
18 the good time, this is the years you experience, you don't
19 set up the kids to be criminals. This is why we have so
20 many young kids out there right now, McLaughlin and from
21 there, they're out there, they go to Whaley, they wanted me
22 to send my son to Whaley. That's just exposing him to
23 negative. Negative.

24 I mean, if there's a little problem, fix the
25 problem, don't make it big. I mean, I'm a supportive

1 parent and the school knows that. If they call me, I was
2 right there. If there's any problem I was right there.
3 You know, I have a full time, I have a family to support,
4 but I was there. I sat in one of the classes everyday for
5 a whole semester, what did I have the teacher to say about
6 that? My kid disrupts the class while I sit there everyday
7 in that class. I just want you to look into that and make
8 sure that, you know, nobody else is going through the same
9 thing I'm going through. Thank you.

10 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you very much.

11 MS. CHILDERS: I just have a request. My
12 name is Candace Childers and we have a woman here, I guess,
13 a part of the Native community, representative of the
14 Native community, and we haven't heard from her and I'm
15 wondering what her thoughts are on the issue of racism.

16 MS. COOPER: I would just really encourage
17 everyone to be part of the solution instead of part of the
18 problem. Mr. Vaska says that, and he's right, at least I
19 have experienced it, when you dress professionally,
20 especially in the downtown area, there's not a problem, but
21 if you show up in your grubbies you're going to get the
22 look and it makes you feel very uncomfortable. But be part
23 of the solution. Not all of us who are Native look Native,
24 don't discriminate against your own. And, I'm sorry, I
25 have to leave, I have to pick up my Native daughter.

1 REVEREND GREENE: Thank you. We want to
2 thank Minority Community Police Relations Task Force and
3 all of you for coming out. And you can make a difference
4 in this city. Let me encourage you to talk about your
5 situation, if you have encountered racism or prejudice,
6 talk to us about it. We can make a difference and make
7 this city the city that we want it to be, the city of love.
8 Thank you, again, for coming out and if you have any
9 information in the future, the Minority Community Police
10 Relations Task Force meets every second Friday at 12:30
11 here in the Rec Center. So come forward and let us hear
12 your situation and we will disseminate that information to
13 the various departments.

14 Thank you again and God bless you.

15 (Off record)

16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing Minority Community Police
Relations Task Force was electronically recorded by myself
on the 11th day of May 2001, commencing at the hour of
1:30 p.m at the Fairview Recreation Center, 1131 East 10th
Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska;

That this hearing was transcribed by myself to the
best of my knowledge and ability:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my seal this 18th day of May 2001.

[Signature]
Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/2004

