



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Office of the Borough Manager

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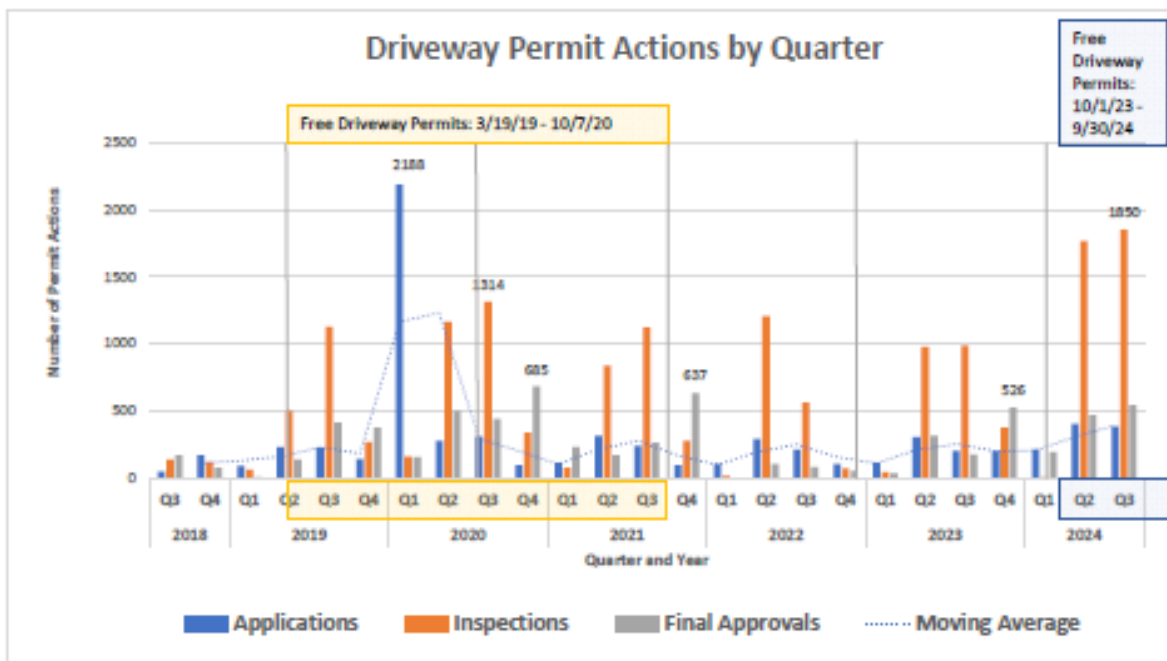
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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2, 2024  
 TO: Mayor and Assembly  
 FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
 RE: Manager’s Weekly Post

### Quarterly Driveway Permit Report:



**Opioid Remediation Grant Program:** I would like to propose something we haven’t done before and provide some rationale.

Background: The National Opioid Settlements are providing states and some municipalities funding for treatment, prevention, and other strategies as allowed by the settlement agreements. In addition to the guidelines provided in the settlement, the Borough can only distribute funding within the confines of its own powers, which does not include the full scope of allowed uses which include a host of things to reduce opioid use. The Borough does not have health and social services powers and has very limited powers to spend the settlement funds within our existing powers. Within our grant application documents, we inform proposers that

“The Mat-Su Borough does not have Health Powers, so these funds may not be spent on all areas pertaining to the actual treatment, prevention, recovery, or harm reduction of opioid addiction. However, the funds may be spent on education, training, and media publicity within the four remediation categories.” There are three ways the Borough can get those powers: 1) from the State Legislature, 2) from voters, or 3) transfer from a city.

Proposal: Request the cities provide the Borough via ordinance the power to distribute National Opioid Settlement funding for treatment, prevention, and other strategies as allowed by the settlement agreements. This would be a very specific delegation only for the purpose of spending funds under the guidelines of national opioid settlement and nothing else. We would need an ordinance from each city, and our Attorney can provide suggested text and coordinate with your attorneys.

Rationale: This would allow the Borough to distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-profits providing treatment, prevention, and other strategies in the valley. Below is an update on what we have received and distributed. As you can see, this will not have the desired impact on our current course. To date, the Borough has received payments totaling \$780,326.48. For Round 1 of the grant program, \$233,332 was available, and we only awarded \$63,273; therefore, we have over \$700,000 not allocated.

	Allocation	Awarded
Education and training for treatment	\$87,500	\$ 22,839
Education and training for prevention	\$87,500	\$ 29,650
Education and training for recovery	\$29,166	\$ 5,910
Education and training for harm-reduction	\$29,166	\$ 4,874
	\$233,332	\$ 63,273

We believe that this low participation rate is because most of the allowable expenses must be largely centered around education and training only. At this time, the Borough cannot allow funds from the Borough to be used for medical treatment, direct patient care, expanded social services, including case management and housing and childcare, legal services, technology costs, clinic costs, neonatal treatment, prescription drug monitoring programs, law enforcement support, and research and data collection.

If the cities transfer to the Borough the power to distribute National Opioid Settlement funding for treatment, prevention, and other strategies as allowed by the settlement agreements, the Borough can make a much better use of the funds for the betterment of all our communities.

**Online Land Sale Update:** The first all-online MSB land sale is now open! This is the first time that the Mat-Su Borough is using Public Surplus for a land sale. This sale is the 2024 Tax Foreclosure Sale (TS45). Notification has been sent out to the individuals who have signed up for email notification. MSB Public Affairs will be posting on Borough social media channels and post on the MSB website. Here is the link to preview the brochure and connect to the online sale: <https://matsugov.us/landsales>.

**Matanuska River Park & Campground Update:** In mid-October, in collaboration with the City of Palmer, selective tree felling will occur at the entrance of Mat River Park & Campground to support City of Palmer Airport operations.

Currently, there are about 30 Cottonwood tree canopies that are penetrating between 9-12' in the aviation glide path, causing a significant hazard for aviators and users of the Park.

This growing problem is affecting Palmer Airport's operations and funding, and the selective cutting will support continued financial support from the FAA.

This Friday, October 4, the City of Palmer, their contractor HDL, and MSB Community Development staff will meet with key stakeholders for an initial informational meeting, and Q&A. Subsequent meetings and opportunities for interested individuals will follow, including an informational webpage to direct the public that will be live at the end of this week or early next week. If individuals have questions, please contact the Community Development Department (907) 861-8634.

### **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

#### **Animal Shelter**

- [12 cats rescued from a Mat-Su Home](#)  
Alaska News Source

#### **Trails**

- [The Making of a Trail: Curry to K'esugi Ridge Connector](#)  
Alaska Public Media

#### **Tourism**

- [Alaska's summer visitor season steady; winter tourism promises growth](#)  
Frontiersman

#### **Roads**

- [DOT prepares to wrap up major Mat-Su Construction projects as temperatures start to dip](#)  
Alaska News Source

#### **Fisheries**

- [Concern grows among fishermen and scientists about low silver salmon returns to cook inlet](#)  
ADN
- [SalmonState on Trawl Season "A wakeup call for all Alaskans"](#)  
Alaska Sporting Journal

#### **Future Events:**

Sat., Oct. 28, 2024 from 10am – 2pm, National DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Fred Meyer (Palmer and Wasilla)