



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 110800
Juneau, AK 99811-0800
Main: 907.465.2500
Fax: 907.465.5442

May 22, 2015

The Honorable Charlotte Brower
Mayor
North Slope Borough
P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Dear Mayor Brower:

On May 14th, we received the North Slope Borough's appeal of the FY16 population determination for Barrow. Please note that DCRA will apply a ten calendar (rather than business) day limit from this point forward. Thus, this year's appeal was filed in a timely manner, but the ten calendar day rule will be applied henceforth.

As to the appeal itself, the preponderance of the evidence supports that the population of Barrow continues to increase. While supplemental information on more than 80 units is missing due to the inherent difficulties of the survey process, nonetheless the documentation that was achieved for 713 units substantiates that the population is greater than that indicated with other techniques.

Thus, I find that the appeal of the population estimate as submitted by the North Slope Borough is ripe for review, which then brings forward the determination of the specific number to be concluded.

The population certified by this office has shown an average increase of 3.46% per year since 2010. As the North Slope Borough's population is increasing at a faster rate than otherwise indicated, we then apply that same 3.46% growth rate to achieve a population of 4,825 for the 2014 Barrow population determination. The resulting borough's estimate for the tax cap purposes is 19,638.

We look forward to continued work with your staff, Madam Mayor, to further solidify these procedures for future year determinations. Please contact Director Katherine Eldemar with the Division of Community and Regional Affairs to arrange a work group for that purpose.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Hladick".

Chris Hladick
Commissioner

cc: K. Eldemar, Director, DCRA