



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-0788

Requested by: Administration
Prepared by: Administration

RESOLUTION NO. WR92-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF WASILLA, ALASKA OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF MAT-SU PRETRIAL FACILITY, ONE WING OF THE PALMER CORRECTIONAL CENTER AND THE SIXTH AVENUE JAIL.

WHEREAS, one of the State government's highest priorities must be to ensure that all residents are protected from crime and violence through enforcement of laws and detention of criminals; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature has set a goal to reduce the proposed FY93 budget by \$200 million ; and

WHEREAS, drastic program cuts to reduce the budget have been proposed through the Department of Corrections to close the Anchorage Sixth Avenue Jail, Mat-Su Pretrial Facility and one wing of the Palmer Correctional Center; and

WHEREAS, the closure of these facilities will necessitate the reclassification of prisoners for early release which could mean up to 1,200 convicted criminals being released into our communities; and

WHEREAS, alternative corrections programs propose to export corrections dollars to out-of-state facilities, eliminate 87 local jobs, rely on unproven "prisoner monitoring" systems and unproven privatized care of violent prisoners; and

WHEREAS, support for privatization of this critical function is coming from potential beneficiaries of future State corrections contracts; and

WHEREAS, favorable cost comparisons of private vs. public corrections ignore significant costs which remain public responsibility such as health care; and

WHEREAS, associated moves to transfer prosecution and jail responsibility to local governments is an inappropriate and precipitous dumping of State government responsibilities and a dramatic increase in costs to local property tax payers; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the facilities will result in the transporting of people arrested to Anchorage for booking and the transporting of prisoners back to Palmer for arraignment which will result in four hours of lost patrol time per arrest and greatly diminish the number of Alaska State Troopers available for patrol in the Valley as well as reduce the manpower for the City of Palmer to almost non-existent which prisoners are transported; and

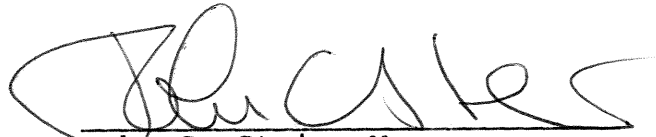
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wasilla opposes the closing of the Sixth Avenue Jail, the Mat-Su Pretrial Facility and one wing of the Palmer Correctional Center since it will create a law enforcement hardship on both the Department of Public Safety and local police departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the closure of these facilities will not provide the residents of Wasilla as well as the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with the law enforcement coverage needed due to the transporting of prisoners to and from Anchorage for arraignment.

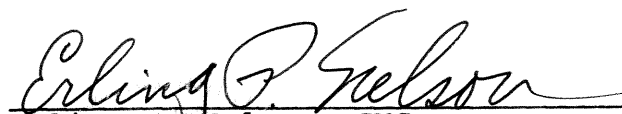
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the closure of the Mat-Su Pretrial Facility will result in the loss of possibly 87 full-time positions in an area with a 17.8% unemployment rate.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 13th day of April, 1992.

APPROVED:


John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Erling P. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

(Seal)