



January 8, 2019

Mayor Jim Matherly and
Fairbanks City Council Members
800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

RE: Communications between the City Council and the Fairbanks Diversity Council

Dear Mayor Matherly and Fairbanks City Council members,


The Fairbanks Diversity Council has noted with concern the multi-year contract approved by the Fairbanks City Council to create a television program depicting the daily professional and personal activities of the officers of the Fairbanks Police Department.

Our body is responsible for providing a citizens' forum, serving as a diversity advisory board to the City Council, and addressing the community's concerns in the areas of employment, public accommodations, police policies, transportation, housing, public awareness and sensitivity, and other such subjects as they affect diverse populations within our community.

We believe it may reasonably be anticipated that this television show, if produced, might strongly influence opinions about Fairbanks and its residents as broadly as at the national level, influencing perceptions of Fairbanks' residents and of Fairbanks as a place to live, work, and visit. This may impact vulnerable populations within the community, and it may impact sectors such as the tourism industry in unanticipated ways.

Our understanding is that the contract was negotiated in good faith as a recruitment tool for the Police Department, and that the City Council was not aware of the negotiations until a late date. Our position is that a policy or protocol should be put in place to ensure early and adequate consultation with the City Council and the Diversity Council on projects undertaken by the City or Departments of the City that may reasonably be anticipated to impact the reputation and well-being of the City and its diverse residents.

On Behalf of the Fairbanks Diversity Council,


Montean Jackson, FDC Vice Chair