



City of Kake

"HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOTEM POLE"

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January 28, 2020

Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
3rd Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Dunleavy,

Welcome back to Juneau. We extend our best wishes in the upcoming session.

As the Mayor of the City of Kake, I would like to show our support for the Kake Access Road. Having a road connection to Petersburg is very important in keeping Kake viable in these important times. It will give us an opportunity to increase the quality of life for all of our inhabitants.

We recommend that the road needs to go several miles closer to Petersburg in order to reach waters that are safe to use for travelling the rest of the way. The Legislature and the Governor at the time in 2012 approved funding for a road between Kake and Petersburg, not Kake and "12 Mile" point out in Frederick Sound in rough water.

To get the road closer to Petersburg, DOT should amend its current procurement and add a Phase II. Phase II of the project would build the road from "12 Mile" seven miles closer to Petersburg to "5 Mile" or even closer. The waters are much safer to use closer to Petersburg.

Once the road is closer to Petersburg and useable, it can serve several purposes:

- a. Emergency medivacs from Kake to the Petersburg Hospital. The citizens of Kake deserve access to emergency medical care that does not require dangerous air medivacs in bad weather, just like the people of Petersburg have. Air medivacs risk the lives of the responders and the residents of Kake who are being airlifted out for medical emergency. The recent crash shows how dangerous air medivacs in bad weather can be.
- b. Opponents of the road should say why the lives of the residents in Kake are not important enough to justify building the road for medivacs, or why first responders

like the ones on the Guardian flight that crashed should have to risk their lives because there is not a road.

- c. Also, the road is important for public safety responses. Time and time again, the troopers are slow to respond to incidents in Kake because they have to fly in bad weather. When MacKenzie Howard was killed, it took a day for the Troopers to get to Kake. It is traumatic enough to have serious crimes happen, it is even more traumatic when the Trooper response is so slow and depends on flying in.
- d. The road will help with getting groceries, building materials, fuel, and into Kake at lower prices by road.
- e. The road follows the route of a possible Kake-Petersburg intertie and would make it significantly less expensive to build that intertie in the future.

By law, funds not used for the road go back into the general fund and can be spent on anything anywhere in the State.

Kake would like to work with DOT and potential contractors to get as much local hire on the road as possible.

I want to thank you for your time and effort to make this project come true for Kake and its inhabitants. Please call me at (907) 209-1823 for any questions.

Again, best wishes in the upcoming session. I look forward to working with you and your administration on this very important project.

Lloyd Davis
Mayor



Cc
Bert Stedman, Senator

19th April 2016

Mackenzie Howard, Murdered in Alaska in 2013.

This is Mackenzie "Mack" Howard:



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Mackenzie was 13 years old when her naked body was discovered in a church entryway across the street from her house on February 5th, 2013. Mackenzie was found by people attending a memorial service for a recently deceased elder and many people were visiting the small village of Kake from out of town. The village is only accessible by air or boat. Dozens of police interviews were conducted once officials announced that Mackenzie's death was being treated as a homicide. She had been beaten to death. She was beaten so badly that her family could only touch her hand to say goodbye before burying her.

Later that year a 14 year old boy was held in custody in connection with Mackenzie's murder. His identity was never released as he is underage. The last information I can find regarding is charges is from 2014 when courts were

deciding whether to charge him as a child or an adult.

Mackenzie's family have spoken out to the media regarding the lack of safety and law enforcement in their village and other rural Native villages like them. In Kake, they do not have their own police force and instead have to rely on Alaska State Troopers who are over 100 miles away. The town has reported that it can take several hours up to a couple of days to see a response and that criminals there don't fear the law.

May Mackenzie rest in peace.

Tribal Information: Mackenzie is a member of a Tlingit tribe.

Sources:

Washington Post [http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2014/08/02/in-rural-villages-%E2%80%8A-little-protection%E2%80%8A-for-alaska-natives/]

Alaska Dispatch News [http://www.adn.com/article/20130216/boy-14-held-death-13-year-old-kake-girl]

Mackenzie Howard Memorial Facebook Page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/Mackenzie.Howard.Memorial/]

Posted 19th April 2016 by Mak

Labels: 2013, Alaska, Mackenzie Howard, murdered girls, Tlingit, usa

 View comments



Anonymous September 3, 2017 at 7:54 PM

There's a FB page, Mackenzie Howard Memorial. Her mother's post on June 17, 2015 and one of the comments indicate that the judge dismissed the case and it never went to trial, i.e. the boy totally got away with it. I don't know any more and can't find anything online. It seems like a horrific decision.

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Anonymous January 8, 2020 at 5:40 AM

It is my understanding the boy was sent to Juvenile Detention in Ketchikan until the time he turned 21 [this age detail could be off - I'm going by memory]. He should be released and back out in the general public now. Terrific decision on the part of the judge, he's really upholding community safety. /s

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