



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-22

- TITLE:** REQUEST FOR THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE 101 COLD CASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of Alaska Native organizations includes advocating for the safety and well-being of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The third leading cause of death for Alaska Natives age 15 to 24 is homicide with Alaska Natives enduring higher homicide rates than other Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** The fundamental duty of Alaska State Troopers is to “serve all the people; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice”; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska State Troopers posted on their Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU) web page that there were “101 unresolved homicide cases in Alaska that were referred to the CCIU to investigate...for killings that happened between 1961 and 2001”; and
- WHEREAS:** Police cannot solve homicides - particularly cold case homicides - by themselves, and when the public is encouraged to help them, violent crimes are solved such as the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives (162 fugitives captured/located as a result of citizen cooperation) and America’s Most Wanted (helped catch 1,203 fugitives over the past quarter of a century); and
- WHEREAS:** Many states such as Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, and Connecticut have proactive cold case web pages which post the names, dates, locations, photographs, cards, synopses, and rewards to encourage the public to help solve cold cases with the names and contact information of the cold case detectives as well as several ways to report information; and
- WHEREAS:** When Alaskans saw that the Alaska State Troopers are not sharing even the most basic information about the 101 cold case victims such as the victims’ names, several (about 35) filed Public Information Requests under the Alaska Public

Records Act, AS 40.25.100–40.25.295 - all of which have been systematically denied by the Alaska State Troopers without sufficient (or any) explanation other than they are “currently working on updating the list” even though they have had the list of names for at least 18 years (since 2001); and

WHEREAS: Although the Alaska State Troopers refuse to provide any identifying information about any of the 101 cold case homicide victims, due to high homicide rates of Alaska Natives and due to at least one of the victims being an Alaska Native woman (Sophie Sergie, age 20, of Pitkas Point, killed on April 26, 1993 and a defendant charged on February 15, 2019 with murder in the first degree and sexual assault in the first degree), it is reasonable to postulate that more of the cold case victims are Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans have the right to know the names of the 101 cold case victims between 1961 and 2001 to see whose names are on the list so that advocacy may begin for the resolutions of these cases and so that efforts can begin to identify cold case homicide victims whose names are not on the list; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers to disclose the names of the 101 cold case homicide victims; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers develop their web page so that it is similar to other states (for example, Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, or Connecticut) to encourage the public to step forward to provide information to assist in solving cold case homicides.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS