

# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## ADMINISTRATION

100 Lincoln Street | Sitka, Alaska 99835

[www.cityofsitka.com](http://www.cityofsitka.com)

[administrator@cityofsitka.org](mailto:administrator@cityofsitka.org)

907-747-1812

July 26, 2022

**[VIA EMAIL ONLY]**

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500  
[deed.commissioner@alaska.gov](mailto:deed.commissioner@alaska.gov)

Re: USCG Property Transaction in Sitka, Alaska

Dear Commissioner Dr. Johnson,

Thank you for your willingness to enter negotiations with the U.S. Coast Guard for the parcel transaction necessary to provide a suitable facility to homeport the Fast Response Cutter (FRC) in Sitka. In 2018, the Commandant of the Coast Guard committed to the Alaska delegation the homeporting of an FRC in Sitka to bolster critical coverage of the Alaska coastline. The land sale is critical to this goal, as is the timeliness of the transaction to keep federal spending on track as well as the FRC's timely arrival in Sitka.

The arrival date of the FRC is only three years away (2025) and the time necessary to permit, contract, and construct the pier and buildings prior to arrival is dwindling. Facility construction and subsequent homeporting of the FRC in Sitka is at risk until the property issues are resolved.

The City and Borough of Sitka recognizes the vital service that the U.S. Coast Guard provides to our community, Alaska, and the nation. The City and Borough of Sitka is a certified Coast Guard City which is an honorary designation intended to recognize communities of special historical and present-day importance to the U.S. Coast Guard. It is our duty to provide community support and make special efforts to acknowledge and accommodate Coast Guard personnel in Sitka now, as well as those soon to arrive.

Please see the attached letter from the Alaska Congressional Delegation expressing Senator Sullivan's and Senator Murkowski's support in making sure the FRC arrives in Sitka on schedule.

We respectfully urge you to make this negotiation a priority.

Sincerely,

John M. Leach  
Municipal Administrator

Enclosure: Alaska Delegation letter dated January 26, 2021  
U.S. Coast Guard response letter to Sen Sullivan dated February 10, 2021

Cc: Melissa Henshaw, Public and Government Relations Director, via email only  
C.J. Zane, Blank Rome, via email only  
Genevieve Cowan, Blank Rome, via email only

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 26, 2021

Admiral Karl Schultz  
Commandant  
United States Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Schultz:

In 2018, Admiral Zukunft, then Commandant of the Coast Guard, wrote to the Alaska delegation committing to a robust Fast Response Cutter (FRC) and Coastal Patrol Boat presence and a homeporting arrangement that would provide the fullest coverage of the Alaska coastline. Today, we write to you to express our continued support for the Coast Guard's plan and to firmly articulate our appreciation and expectation that these commitments be upheld.

The tyranny of distance is a reality in Alaska; as such the Coast Guard has studied and prioritized the need to homeport two FRCs in Kodiak, two in Ketchikan, one in Seward, one in Sitka and an 87' Coastal Patrol Boat in Petersburg and Juneau. We understand that in order to sustainably homeport the FRC in Sitka, the Coast Guard needs additional funding for pier recapitalization, construction of maintenance buildings, and additional community housing. Yet, before those projects can be completed in Sitka, the Sitka-bound FRC will be completed and delivered to the Coast Guard. While we're extremely appreciative that the Coast Guard has plans to temporarily homeport the Sitka-bound FRC in Ketchikan in the interim, we ask the Coast Guard remain committed to fully carry out plans to homeport the Sitka-bound FRC in Sitka as soon as the necessary infrastructure is completed. The Alaska delegation remains committed to supporting efforts to obtain the necessary funding to realize the homeporting in Sitka and any additional needs in other homeports within the current proposed timelines. In last two years, we have secured close to \$50 million in appropriations for the recapitalization of the buoy tender pier in Sitka that will also support this FRC.

We are aware of the Coast Guard's cost-saving initiatives to homeport cutters in clusters. As a result, it's especially appropriate to remind you that cost-savings cannot justify any reduction in the ability to accomplish missions. In Alaska, the distance between a Coast Guard asset and a search and rescue case can be the deciding factor between life and death. For the safety and security of Alaska's mariners and environment, we expect that you will follow through on the commitment to homeport one of the Coast Guard FRCs in Sitka as soon as you are able.

Thank you for your dedication to maritime protection, and safety, and for your commitment to FRC homeporting arrangements that will provide fullest-coverage for Alaska.

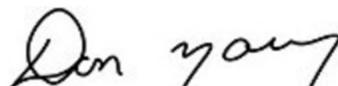
Sincerely,



LISA MURKOWSKI  
United States Senator



DAN SULLIVAN  
United States Senator



DON YOUNG  
Congressman for All Alaska

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington DC 20593-7618  
Staff Symbol: CCG  
Phone: (202) 224-2913

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**FEB 10 2021**

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your January 26, 2021 letter regarding Fast Response Cutter (FRC) homeporting in Sitka, Alaska. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the Coast Guard, our Service members, and the recognition of the vital services we provide to Alaskan communities and mariners.

The Coast Guard remains committed to homeporting an FRC in Sitka as soon as homeport construction is complete. As you know, the Sitka FRC homeport project and Seagoing Buoy Tender pier replacement were funded as parts of the Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 Appropriations, respectively. We have begun an integrated civil engineering planning effort for both projects and intend to award a single construction contract to achieve cost and schedule efficiencies. As a next step in the planning effort, the Coast Guard intends to engage with the State of Alaska to discuss land requirements to support the Sitka FRC homeport.

Your steadfast advocacy of Coast Guard infrastructure projects has been critical to successful mission execution and support in the region. Robust coverage in Alaska represents a strategic imperative for the Coast Guard, and we value our relationships with local communities, businesses, and elected officials in the region. Our Senate Liaison Office would be pleased to respond to any further questions at (202) 224-2913 or [Senate@uscg.mil](mailto:Senate@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Schultz", written over a circular blue stamp.

Karl L. Schultz  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard