

City of Dillingham Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dillingham City Council and Mayor Appoint Gregg B. Brelsford as Interim City Manager

January 12, 2021 – The City Council and Mayor of the City of Dillingham, Alaska are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Gregg B. Brelsford to serve as Dillingham’s Interim City Manager / Interim Covid-19 Incident Commander. His appointment is effective January 19, 2021. Mr. Brelsford previously served as the Borough Manager / Covid-19 Incident Commander of the Bristol Bay Borough, Alaska from June 2018-June 2020.

“I am honored to be selected by the Dillingham City Council to serve as the Interim City Manager. Having worked previously on the East-side of Bristol Bay, I am excited for this opportunity to serve the people on the West-side as well. Dillingham, its surrounding communities, and its esteemed city, tribal, and elected leaders, are highly respected throughout the state of Alaska. The West-side is also known for its friendly and hard-working people. My wife, Puyong, and I are thrilled to be able to join this exceptional community on an interim basis.”

Mr. Brelsford came to Alaska from Colorado in 1972 after visiting his parents in Anchorage. After his father retired, his parents moved to Seattle where his mother now lives in a nursing home. Gregg and Puyong have two grown children who live in the lower-48: a son, Jimin, and a daughter, Ginna, who is married and has a daughter, Raven, nearly four years old. He ran a close but unsuccessful primary campaign for the Alaska House of Representatives in 1994.

Mr. Brelsford has worked throughout rural Alaska. He initially worked in the Native Village of Tyonek and then led the Historical Site and Cemeteries project for Cook Inlet Region, Inc. Mr. Brelsford later served as the founding Health Director of Chugachmiut, the regional, tribal organization of the Chugach Region.

Following that, Mr. Brelsford served as the Executive Director of the Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), the regional tribal organization for the Unangan People in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. In this capacity, Mr. Brelsford helped lead the successful lobbying effort to secure reparations from the U.S. Congress for Aleuts who were interned in abandoned canneries in Southeast Alaska during W.W. II. As the Executive Director of APIA, Mr. Brelsford served on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Also, he simultaneously served as the Executive Director of the Aleutian Housing Authority.

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Mr. Brelsford holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, and a Master of Public Administration degree, from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He also holds a law degree and practiced law in Anchorage, and elsewhere, for about twenty-years. Mr. Brelsford is not the first member of his family to work in Dillingham. His brother, Taylor, and his family, lived in Dillingham when Taylor taught for the Rural Development Program of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, from 1988 to 1992.

Mayor Ruby stated that she and the Council are pleased to hire Mr. Brelsford on an interim basis while the City recruits a permanent City Manager. “Gregg brings a breadth of experience in rural-coastal Alaska. He is also intimately familiar with issues and opportunities similar to those in Dillingham. This includes managing the Covid-19 threat and the complicated challenges it brings during the commercial fishing season. Gregg has a proven track record in local government and values teamwork, active listening and respectful dialogue.” Mr. Brelsford added, “I very much look forward to working with the City’s outstanding management team and dedicated elected leaders, as well as other members and leaders of this great community.”

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