

Presented By:
Mayor
Action Taken:
Yes 5
No 0
Abstain 0


CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-09-05

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY OF NOME'S SUPPORT FOR
THE IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome Common Council expresses the City of Nome's unwavering support of the running of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race finishing in Nome.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 14th day of September, 2020.



JOHN K. HANDELAND
Interim Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk

From: [Melanie Johnson](#)
To: discover@gci.net; [John K. Handeland](#)
Subject: RE: From PETA, regarding your recent appointment as interim mayor
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 11:56:48 AM

Mr. Handeland,

I've tried to reach you multiple times to discuss celebrating the historic Iditarod Trail and Alaskan huskies *without* supporting animal abuse. We're disappointed that you have yet to take action on this important issue.

If I do not hear from you by the end of the day Tuesday, we'll be left with no option but to alert our members and supporters that your city does not share their concerns regarding animal mistreatment.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards,
Melanie

From: Melanie Johnson <MelanieJ@peta.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:30 AM
To: discover@gci.net; johnh@njus.org
Subject: RE: From PETA, regarding your recent appointment as interim mayor

Dear Mr. Handeland,

I'm hoping to hear back from you soon. Is there a more appropriate person for me to contact?

Thank you,
Melanie

From: Melanie Johnson <MelanieJ@peta.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 2:06 PM
To: discover@gci.net; johnh@njus.org
Subject: RE: From PETA, regarding your recent appointment as interim mayor

Dear Mr. Handeland,

I am following up to see whether you've had a chance to consider the email below. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Melanie

From: Melanie Johnson <MelanieJ@peta.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:11 PM

To: discover@gci.net; johnh@njus.org

Subject: From PETA, regarding your recent appointment as interim mayor

September 1, 2020

John K. Handeland
Interim Mayor of Nome

Via e-mail: discover@gci.net; johnh@njus.org

Dear Mr. Handeland,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide following your recent appointment as interim mayor of Nome to ask that you please celebrate the historic Iditarod Trail and Alaskan huskies *without* supporting animal abuse—by leaving dogs out of the race.

You may not be aware of it, but the dogs used in the Iditarod are subjected to biting winds, blinding snowstorms, and subzero temperatures. Up to half of those who start the race don't finish. Many pull muscles, incur stress fractures, or are afflicted with diarrhea, dehydration, intestinal viruses, pneumonia, or bleeding ulcers. During this year's race, more than 220 dogs were pulled off the trail—likely because of exhaustion, illness, or injury—including a senior dog named Cool Cat who developed twisted intestines and almost died of painful bloat.

More than 150 dogs have died as a result of this race. One day after crossing the finish line last year, a dog named Oshi died from aspiration pneumonia—probably from inhaling her own vomit—which is the leading cause of death for dogs who don't survive the race. This number doesn't even include the innumerable others who have died during the off-season while chained up outside or who were killed simply because they lacked the speed and stamina to make the cut.

In late 2018 and early 2019, a [PETA investigator](#) worked at two kennels owned by former Iditarod champions and found that dogs there were denied veterinary care for painful injuries, kept constantly chained next to dilapidated boxes and plastic barrels in the bitter cold and harsh wind, and forced to run even when they were exhausted and dehydrated.

[Dozens of companies](#)—including Alaska Airlines, Chrysler, Coca-Cola, Jack Daniel's, and Wells Fargo—have already cut ties with this cruel race. Alaskans can celebrate the historic Iditarod Trail without causing suffering and death by replacing dogs with willing human cyclists, cross-country skiers, or even snowmobilers.

May I please hear from you by September 8?

Kind regards,

Melanie Johnson
Assistant Manager
Animals in Entertainment Campaign
PETA