

Report on Trader's death released

Tundra Times staff

A report by Anchorage Public Safety Commissioner John Franklin orders further training for police in recognizing the signs of hypothermia, a review of dispatch procedures, and the written reprimand of the Anchorage police dispatcher who set aside calls from citizens requesting police aid for Francis Trader.

The report includes the comments and recommendations of Dr. William Mills Jr., and expert in cold weather medicine. According to Dr. Mills, Francis Trader died of a heart attack prompted by hypothermia and complicated by chronic alcoholism.

The city will reportedly create a "Quick Care Center" — a drunk tank — as a result of the incident, and will initiate a "Cold Alert" program to encourage police and other emergency personnel to get street people off the streets in subzero weather.

The report was presented to the Anchorage Assembly on Tuesday evening. Mayor Tony Knowles was satisfied with the report and its recommendations, acknowledging that inattention and lax police procedures had somewhat compromised the effectiveness of the city's response to "drunk calls."
