

Tyonek to retain BIA as tenant in Kaloa buildings

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Tundra Times publisher

The Native Village of Tyonek has won the first round in its fight to retain the Bureau of Indian Affairs, its largest tenant, in the Kaloa buildings in Anchorage.

Officials of the Kuskokwim Planning and Management Corp., represent-

(Continued on Page Six)

• Tyonek retains BIA

(Continued from Page One)

ling the village, were notified by the General Services Administration that the BIA will not be relocated to the old Federal Building at 605 West Fourth Ave. next January.

"We are pleased to advise you that we have decided it is in the best interest of the United States Government and the people of the Native Village of Tyonek to continue to delegate leasing authority to BIA, which will allow them to lease space from the NVT," Duncan Lent Howard, GSA commissioner, said in an Oct. 18 letter to Kuskokwim officials.

Ruth Kaloa, representing the village, said she is pleased with the decision. And she stressed that support from other Alaska Native groups, Outside tribes and other organizations helped a great deal.

"It demonstrates that if people work in unity, things can be accomplished," she said.

Kaloa said her only remaining concern is that it is still unclear just how long BIA will be able to remain in the Kaloa Building at 16th Ave. and C St. The federal agency currently is leasing 18,345 square feet from Tyonek, paying about \$28,000 a month.

The BIA has been leasing office space in the Kaloa building for about 15 years. GSA officials announced recently that the BIA would have to move.

Spokesmen for Tyonek had said such a move would be financially devastating for the village because the Kaloa buildings are the village's principal asset and finding another tenant in Alaska's current economic climate would be extremely difficult.