

Contract Termination Protested by Barrow

The City of Barrow is claiming that it was not lack of housing that caused the termination of the city's contract with the State Department of Public Safety to have a state trooper stationed at Barrow.

In a strongly worded letter to Commissioner Mel Personett of Public Safety, Eben Hopson, council president and former state senator, wrote:

"After the city council of Barrow had inserted in their minutes the statement you made to the effect that Barrow should have a trooper stationed here, you seemed to have completely forgotten that public safety is the State's responsibility and as commissioner is primarily responsible for the execution of that responsibility."

Hopson said that as of

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late, the local Barrow policeman has had difficulty carrying out his duties due to lack of a vehicle and that there was a state truck for which the city was paying rent.

"...We even got turned down in our first request for the use of it," Hopson said.

Hopson charged that it was the department's attempt to economize that caused the shutdown of the post.

"The latest suicide case we had here was an intoxication case which could have been prevented with adequate policing," Hopson stated.

Eben Hopson stressed the housing adequacy:

"So that there is no mistaken understanding, I will state again that there is housing available, adequate housing, in Barrow, and you need only to come and arrange it. The only thing you will not find here is a plush mansion for troopers."