

Andersen to run for NSB mayor's post

Flossie Hopson Andersen, daughter of the late North Slope Borough Mayor Eben Hopson, announced last week she is a candidate for North Slope Borough mayor.

She has served for the past six years on the Borough Assembly.

Andersen said her campaign will focus on the theme of providing leadership to restore the North Slope Borough's respectability and the public trust it enjoyed during her late father's administration. She added that one of the priorities her campaign will emphasize is the need to consult local village leadership in decisionmaking and being responsive to the priorities they establish.

"After all of the years we have struggled to establish a strong local government that we could be proud of, in just a few short years we have seen the respect for our borough deteriorate

locally and statewide.

"Our borough has suffered major setbacks in recent years, and we have to begin working now to rebuild it," she said.

Andersen said there is a need to restore the emphasis on protecting important cultural traditions and subsistence resources; strengthen the capital improvements program; and expand local jobs and business opportunities by increasing village participation in planning borough programs and projects, as during her father's administration.

With a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alaska, Andersen has been supportive of and involved in education programs on the North Slope for many years. She is currently the manager of the Arctic Education Foundation and has served the borough in various capacities for nearly 15 years.

After receiving her college degree in 1972, Andersen returned home to Barrow and began her career with the borough under the tutelage of her father. During his initial administration, she served as a planning associate and assisted in organizing the borough's Planning Department. Her accomplishments include establishing the Commission on Inupiat History, Language and Culture; organizing the First Elders Conference in Northern

Alaska; and initiating the ongoing traditional land use inventory.

Andersen also served as the resource researcher in the borough's Environmental Protection Office and assisted in formulating the borough's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

In 1981, she was elected to her first term on the North Slope Borough Assembly and was re-elected in 1984, winning by overwhelming margins in both elections.