

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska



November 17, 2015

XXXXXXX

Special Agent in Charge
Anchorage Division FBI
101 East Sixth Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear XXX:

Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally-recognized tribal government for more than 4,000 enrolled Tribal citizens in Sitka, Alaska. We read with interest that the FBI will be involved in the investigation of the excessive use of force by use of TASER against a Native Alaskan person while in the custody of the Sitka Police Department in 2014. This incident, which was only recently brought to light despite having occurred over a year ago, is symptomatic of other actions by the Sitka Police Department which have alarmed citizens of this Tribe for many years.

While we do not know whether the investigation now begun by the FBI might be targeted toward systematic violations of the civil rights of our Tribal citizens on account of race, the fact is that many of our citizens believe such prejudice does exist within the local police department. We therefore request that the FBI consider the existence of racial bias while it conducts its investigation. To that end, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska wishes to do whatever it can to facilitate the FBI investigation.

Although the FBI's involvement at this point is an investigation and might not lead to adoption of policy, in accordance with the spirit of DOJ Policy Statement 0300.01 of August 29, 2013 and Executive Order 13175, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is ready, willing, and able to have government-to-government consultation throughout this investigation, and the Tribe does request that the FBI engage in such consultation.

You may contact the Tribe's General Manager, Lawrence SpottedBird at (907) 747-7380, lawrence.spottedbird@sitkatriben-sn.gov, or me at () - mike.baines@sitkatriben-sn.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Baines
Tribal Council Chairman