



# ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"*

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor of the State of Alaska  
Alaska State Capitol Building, Third Floor  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Governor Parnell,

The Alaska Correctional Officer Association reiterates the importance of resolving the dispute over the Blended Staffing Schedule Arbitration Decision and Award. The final Award came on April 23, 2013. The State appealed to the Arbitrator and the Arbitrator's response was received on May 16, 2013. The State chose to dispute the Decision and Award in court on August 9, 2013. After nearly seven months of delay, the State continues to refuse to abide by an Award that it agreed would be final and binding.

There are two aspects to the Arbitrator's binding remedy. First, the Award calls for taking Correctional Officers off the (8) hour security shifts and placing them back on the contractual 12 hour security shifts. Second, the Award calls for making financially whole those Officers harmed by being placed on the new (8) hour security shifts. Had the Award been obeyed promptly when it was issued, the financial make-whole for harmed Officers would have been reasonably small. However, it now continues to grow as another year goes by and additional Officers are placed on (8) hour security shifts. It appears the State's intent is to ignore the Arbitrator's Decision thereby unnecessarily increasing the State's financial liability to harmed Officers. Should the State continue to purposefully delay, it continues to place both Officers and the public at risk.

Correctional Officers put themselves at risk every day; they deserve to be as safe as possible. As every knowledgeable observer predicted, the (8) hour security shifts have been a disaster. The new shifts disrupted the efficient and safe operations of the correctional facilities, obliterated the FTO (training) program (thus putting new recruits at risk), created a scheduling nightmare, harmed employee morale, and raised costs, rather than reducing them.

We renew our call for the State to recognize the binding Decision and Award. Every day that the (8) hour security shifts continue, the probability of yet another Officer being seriously injured increases, as does the State's financial obligation.

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signatures of the Alaska Correctional Officer Association Board of Directors]*

Alaska Correctional Officer Association Board of Directors

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