



December 28, 2013

DEC 30 2013  
CBJ Manager's Office

Ms. Kimberly Kiefer – City Manager  
City and Borough Manager's Office  
155 S. Seward St.  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Kiefer,

Airlift Northwest (ALNW) is a Section 115 tax exempt governmental entity that has provided critical care, air ambulance service for Alaska and the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years. To improve services to Juneau and the Southeast communities a permanent base was established in Juneau in 1994. As of May 2013 we have added an additional aircraft to continue to improve service.

ALNW would like to petition for \$50,000.00 from the Marine Passenger Fee Proceeds which would assist Airlift in their continued commitment to providing safe, efficient air ambulance transport to cruise ship passengers and crew. The funding will assist us with costs of providing increased service during the cruise ship season and compensation for unpaid bills submitted for cruise ship passengers.

During the cruise ship season ~25% of the flights from Juneau are for cruise ship passengers or crew. A flight from Juneau to Seattle takes approximately 8-9 hours to complete the mission, which may leave the community without immediate medevac availability. This can cause a delay in a critical patient getting the care they need. An example of this would be a patient having a heart attack who is unresponsive to the medications given at Bartlett Hospital requiring transport to a cardiac catheterization lab. Delays can cause increased damage to the heart muscle which impacts the patient's life. To improve availability and timeliness ALNW has added an additional aircraft in Juneau. For 2013 we utilized Seattle crew for partial staffing of this aircraft.

Airlift Northwest is committed to transporting extremely sick patients. We are very aware of soaring health care costs and the toll they take on our patients. To help, we offer assistance to financially distressed patients. Each year that fund provides approximately \$2 million to cover their care from Airlift Northwest. We also have an additional \$5 million in uncompensated care.

The total cost for supporting cruise ship passenger transports was \$383,955.00 which includes the following:

- Additional Aircraft for May thru August
  - 25% of cost = \$70,000
- Additional Staff for May thru August
  - 25% of cost - \$19,000
- Uncompensated payment from cruise ship passengers
  - 294,955.00 as of 12/21/13

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Cordially,



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