



Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
"Representing Alaska's Finest"
A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 803



Contact Information

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Upholding Due Process:

PSEA Responds to Commissioner Cockrell's Premature Guilt Pronouncement

Anchorage, Alaska, August 22, 2024

PSEA represents the rank-and-file Alaska State Troopers who work tirelessly to protect the citizens of Alaska. Recently, two troopers were criminally charged after an arrest that took place in Kenai in May.

The troopers are citizens of this State and have a constitutional right to due process. This right includes the right to a fair trial, to be judged by a jury of their peers, and to a presumption that all are innocent until proven guilty. These core rights are guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution.

However, on August 15, 2024, Commissioner James Cockrell publicly pronounced the guilt of these two troopers in a press conference, without hearing the troopers' side of the story and without any regard for the troopers' constitutional right to due process and a fair and impartial trial. PSEA believes all Alaskans have the constitutional right to due process, including the troopers charged in this incident. If they are found guilty of a crime, it should be because they were convicted by a jury of their peers and not by a public pronouncement by Commissioner Cockrell.

PSEA members pride themselves on serving and protecting Alaskans across our state. The Alaska State Troopers are a professional police organization who hold themselves accountable and will continue to do so. The public statements by Commissioner Cockrell, however, are not about accountability; there is a process in place for that. The Commissioner's statements went well beyond accountability and instead deprived the troopers of their constitutional rights.

PSEA members across the state continue to provide essential public safety services to the citizens of Alaska and will continue to do so while treating all Alaskans with dignity and respect.

Information about PSEA and its members can be found www.psea.net

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