

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

December 28, 2017 12:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room, Room 211, City Hall
Meeting 2017-24 Worksession

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Discussions with US Consul General in Vladivostok Michael Keays

III. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 72 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made to have a sign language interpreter present or an audiotape containing the Assembly's agenda made available. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.org

**ASSEMBLY AGENDA/MANAGER'S REPORT
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

Discussions with US Consul General in Vladivostok Michael Keays

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
☐ Letter from Mr. Keays to Mayor Koelsch	12/13/2017	Exhibit
☐ Michael Keays' biography	12/13/2017	Exhibit



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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December 11, 2017

The Honorable Ken Koelsch
Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau
155 S. Seward St
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mayor Koelsch,

Greetings from the U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok, Russia. My name is Michael Keays, and I am the U.S. Consul General here, representing the U.S. Government in the Russian Far East – an area comprised of nine Russian federal subjects, constituting a territory the size of the continental U.S. west of the Mississippi River. Populated by 6.5 million people and rich in timber, gold, silver, platinum, fish, hydrocarbons, and renewable energy sources; and sharing a 1,800 nautical mile maritime boundary with the U.S., and borders with China and North Korea, the Russian Far East was designated by the Russian President as a strategic area and priority for development in 2012. As our 13th Consul General to this region, and the 12th since we re-opened our consulate here on September 22, 1992, I am excited to be back in Russia (I served at our embassy in Moscow from 1995 to 1997) and to be representing the U.S. Government and the American people to this part of the Russian Federation. I have already done much here in my first year, and look forward to making my remaining two years in Vladivostok as productive as possible – providing consular services to Americans in this part of Russia, promoting American business here and commerce between our two countries, conducting public diplomacy, and advancing and defending our interests in the Russian Far East. My staff and I do all of this in coordination with our other consulates in Yekaterinburg and St. Petersburg, and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow – all seven or more time zones to the west.

I am writing to let you know that starting December 27, I will be making a 9-day business trip to Alaska, and plan to be in Juneau on December 28 and 29. In connection with this, I am requesting a meeting with you or a member of your staff sometime during that time window and at a location that is convenient to you. (I am also seeking a meeting with the Governor or his designate.) I would like to share with you what I have learned from my time and travels in the Russian Far East, and consider how we could re-energize and expand connections between Alaska and this part of Russia as the situations on both sides of the Pacific allow. In particular, I would like to talk with you about the idea of having a delegation from Alaska visit Vladivostok (a sister city of Juneau) and other key cities in the Russian Far East.

My visit to Alaska and proposed meeting with you has been fully coordinated with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in advance, and I will share all that I learn from my visit to Alaska with my colleagues in Moscow, so that we can leverage the authorities and resources present in Moscow, and combine them with our capabilities in Vladivostok to maximum effect. Naturally,

the degree of success to which we can re-energize and expand our interaction with Russia will depend to a great extent on an improvement in the overall working relationship between our two governments. Nevertheless, there is much we can do independent of our governments, and successes in the fields of business, education and cultural exchange could do much to improve trust between our governments. It is this thinking that has made it possible for me to make this official visit to Alaska.

I hope you will be able to find some time to meet with me while I am in Juneau. My assistant, Lena Vasilevskaya, and I are controlling my schedule and will be glad to work with you to schedule a meeting. You can reach us as follows:

By e-mail: Consul General Michael C. Keays at: KeaysMC@state.gov
Ms. Lena Vasilevskaya at VasilevskayaL@state.gov

By telephone: Consul General Keays at: +7-914-790-3733
Ms. Lena Vasilevskaya at: +7-914-790-3718

As this will be my first visit to Alaska, I would also be grateful for any advice you have about anyone else you think I should meet with while I am in Juneau. My overall priorities for my 9 days in Alaska are as follows:

- Familiarizing state and local officials with our operations in the Russian Far East
- Re-energizing and promoting sister city relations
- Exploring possibilities for expanded two-way commerce and public diplomacy; and cooperation in the areas of environment, science, technology and health
- Discussion of issues concerning travel and communication between indigenous peoples on both sides of the Bering Strait
- Local media engagements, as appropriate

Thank you in advance for consideration of my meeting request. I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, please accept my best regards.

Very truly yours,



Michael C. Keays

Enclosed:

Bio of Consul General Michael C. Keays



Michael C. Keays
Consul General
US Consulate General
Vladivostok, Russia

Michael Keays is a career Foreign Service Officer with over 20 years in the U.S. Department of State. In June 2014, he completed a Masters in National Security Strategy at the National War College and began working as Senior Ukraine Policy Advisor in the State Department's Office of Eastern European Affairs. Prior to his studies, he served as an Associate Coordinator at the Foreign Service Institute's Political Training Division, where he trained and mentored Foreign Service Officers heading out to their first reporting officer tours overseas.

Mr. Keays' previous diplomatic postings overseas include the U.S. embassies in Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Moscow and Kingston. In Afghanistan, he was the State Department representative on a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Ghazni Province. At the State Department, he previously served as an advisor to two U.S. Special Negotiators for Conflicts in the Former Soviet Union, and as the Counterinsurgency & Political-Military Team Leader on the Afghanistan Desk. He joined the State Department's Foreign Service in 1992, and received language training in Russian, Polish and Pashto.

Mr. Keays is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of California at San Diego with Departmental Honors in Political Science. He completed the U.S. Air Force's four-year Reserve Officer Training Corps program and served as a reservist for three years in the U.S. Coast Guard. He is married and has two children. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and serves as a uniformed leader in the Boy Scouts of America.