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MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM ON ALASKA NATIVE ISSUES

Non-partisan forum presented by Alaska Native Professional Association (ANPA), with ANCSA Regional Association, Get Out the Native Vote, First Alaskans Institute, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Catholic Social Services, Alaska Native Justice Center, and KNBA 90.3 FM.

Held at ChangePoint, 6689 ChangePoint Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, on April 27, 2009

Moderators: Andrea "Iipak" Gusty  
Jack "Qikiqtaichiaq" Zayon

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (Introduction by Jorie Zilys, Chair of The  
3 Alaska Native Professional Association.)

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5 MS. ZILYS: With that, let's get started  
6 with brief opening remarks from Eric Croft.

7 MR. CROFT: Thank you. And it's a  
8 pleasure to be here. Many of you have come up or  
9 I've come up to you while we were waiting to get  
10 started because we know each other through work we  
11 did together on the state level. Some of you don't  
12 know me, so I'll do a brief bio. My name is Eric  
13 Croft. I was born here in Anchorage in the Spenard,  
14 actually, area in 1964. Wife Joanna and son Burke,  
15 daughter Shannon. They're going to the public  
16 school system here, as I did. I graduated from West  
17 in 1982. I started and ran a small business, but  
18 most of you know me, I think, because I spent ten  
19 years in the Alaska legislature representing the  
20 midtown and downtown districts. But I always  
21 remembered that you're representing your area when  
22 you're a state representative.

23 I think I want to emphasize two things  
24 this morning just briefly before we get to the  
25 questions. We need to continue to understand and

1 have an appreciation of what binds us together in  
2 this state and a respect for the unique history of  
3 Native Alaska and Native America. And I've tried  
4 to bring that to my legislative career. For the  
5 last two years I have worked as a municipal  
6 prosecutor here in the city working in the courts  
7 with the police to try and keep our neighborhoods  
8 safe.

9 In the legislature worked -- worked with  
10 you on many issues of statewide importance,  
11 including on subsistence, where I was proud to  
12 support a rural preference in times of shortage.  
13 Opposition to English-only laws -- and I saw in some  
14 of the questions we'll get into some of those  
15 because I think they discriminate against our  
16 history of Native languages in this state.

17 And a history of trying to work together  
18 in a cooperative way with the tribes. Many of my  
19 legislative colleagues can't even say the word. And  
20 I think we need to understand that even if they  
21 won't say the word, they exist and we need to have a  
22 cooperative relationship that allows us to move  
23 forward and solve the problems. Neither one of us,  
24 the state or the tribes, are big enough to solve the  
25 problems entirely ourselves. We need to work

1 together better. And I was proud to do that in my  
2 legislative career.

3 I'm also particularly proud to be here, I  
4 think it shows how far we've come. I grew up seeing  
5 some of the heroes of both Alaska and Native Alaska.  
6 My dad in the legislature working with people like  
7 Frank Ferguson and Willie Hensley, who was mentioned  
8 a moment ago, on some of the groundbreaking civil  
9 rights legislation, on the response to ANCSA, on the  
10 response to the Molly Hootch decision, on funding  
11 rural schools after that decision. So I watched  
12 some of that history being borne out in the '70s and  
13 I'm just particularly proud to be here as we  
14 continue to grow together. A cooperative  
15 relationship, one based on mutual respect. And as I  
16 said, an appreciation for what we can do together  
17 and a respect for the unique history of Native  
18 Alaskans.

19 So thank you for inviting us. I hope we'll  
20 have an interesting discussion on all the questions  
21 you prepared for us. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SULLIVAN: Good afternoon. Thank you  
24 all for coming out. Boy, what a turnout. You know,  
25 Eric and I have been on the campaign circuit for a

1 few months now and we have gone to many events that  
2 were supposed to have big crowds and maybe only  
3 eight or ten people showed up. This is very  
4 gratifying for a candidate to be able to talk to  
5 this many people and get our viewpoint out there, we  
6 very much appreciate it. So thank you.

7 My name is Dan Sullivan. I'm a fourth  
8 generation Alaskan. I'm the third of the nine  
9 children of pioneer Alaskans George and Margaret  
10 Sullivan. I spent my early years in living in  
11 Nenana and Fairbanks, and then we moved down to  
12 Anchorage in the statehood year of 1959. I'm  
13 honored to be married to a wonderful lady, my wife  
14 Lynnette, who is a kindergarten teacher. She is  
15 just absolutely incredible, gets me more votes than  
16 I get on my own, I guarantee you. My daughter  
17 Jennifer is an honor student off in college about to  
18 graduate this year, very proud of both of them.

19 I'm a small business owner. I'm a  
20 restaurateur and a consultant. And I've also during  
21 my career had the opportunity to be involved in some  
22 very fun and significant projects managing  
23 facilities like the Sullivan Arena and most proud of  
24 being the general manager, the CEO of the 1996  
25 Arctic Winter Games which were held in Chugiak,

1 Eagle River and were literally the biggest  
2 international sporting and cultural event ever held  
3 in Alaska. It involves all the countries of the  
4 Northern Regions above the 55th parallel and we  
5 really emphasized the cultural aspect of it and it  
6 gave me a great lesson in Northern culture. You  
7 live here all your life and you think you know these  
8 things and there's still a lot to learn.

9 I spent nine years on the Anchorage  
10 Assembly. I served as chair of the Assembly. I  
11 served on all the other leadership positions as  
12 budget chair, legislative chair. And I combine that  
13 business experience and the local government  
14 experience, and I think that's what will allow me to  
15 hit the ground running as your mayor.

16 I'm running for office because I think we  
17 have a very incredible quality of life here in  
18 Anchorage. As mayor you get to work on that every  
19 single day. I can think of no higher calling, no  
20 greater honor, no greater commitment that I would  
21 like to make.

22 I haven't talked too much during this  
23 campaign about my opponent. I believe in running  
24 for the office, not running against an opponent. I  
25 think that's the way to run a respectful campaign.

1 I will continue to do that during this election.

2 I look forward to your questions. Just  
3 one final note. If you have anything that we  
4 weren't able to cover here today, the website is  
5 sullivanforanchorage.com and there is some  
6 literature on the back table if you would like to  
7 know more about me.

8 Again, thank you all very much. I look  
9 forward to the questions.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. GUSTY: We'll start with our first  
12 question here. With so many Alaska Native kids now  
13 in Anchorage, how do you feel about Native languages  
14 being taught in our public schools?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

16 MS. GUSTY: Sorry. I'll repeat that.  
17 With so many Alaska Native kids now in Anchorage,  
18 how do you feel about Native languages being taught  
19 in our public schools?

20 Mr. Croft, we'll start with you.

21 MR. CROFT: I'm very much a supporter of  
22 it. You know, we need to remember that our  
23 diversity is our strength and those Native languages  
24 that almost died out in the generation previous to  
25 mine and in mine we're reviving. I think it's a

1 beautiful part of Alaska and I'm proud of us doing  
2 it. And that's why, as I said in my introduction, I  
3 oppose the English-only laws that would constrain  
4 what we could -- how we could communicate with  
5 people. I think we ought to honor that diversity.  
6 And one of the important steps is to keep it alive  
7 by teaching our children those languages. So I'm a  
8 big supporter of having that program in our school  
9 system.

10 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you. You know, it's  
11 a challenge to teach languages and certainly the  
12 Native languages. When you talk about Native  
13 languages you're talking about many languages. In  
14 Inupiaq alone you've got many dialects within one  
15 language. So that's why we have to find a way to  
16 teach Native culture within the school setting. The  
17 Native charter school, for example, is a perfect  
18 example of how we can not only enhance language  
19 learning but culture learning with a particular  
20 school that people can actually sign up to go to. I  
21 think that's a great step.

22 We have to understand of course that  
23 resources are limited, but I think in almost every  
24 classroom you can find a way to enhance at least  
25 cultural knowledge. So those are the ways that you

1 at least try to do it. Again, trying to teach all  
2 languages in all schools might be difficult  
3 logistics-wise, but through the charter school and  
4 through enhanced cultural sections within the  
5 classrooms I think we can really promote our Native  
6 culture.

7 MR. ZAYON: The next question is for Eric  
8 Croft. Currently, we are seeing a higher number of  
9 homeless men, women and children at shelters in  
10 Anchorage. Statistically, Alaska Native ethnicities  
11 represent disproportionate numbers at these  
12 shelters. What will you do to address the issue of  
13 homelessness in Anchorage?

14 MR. CROFT: You know, all too often the  
15 discussion of homelessness leaves out the word  
16 compassion. We're here in a church and I think we  
17 ought to remember the model of caring for your  
18 brother and sister. I think it begin -- I served  
19 for two years as a prosecutor and we need to  
20 remember that often the homeless are victims of  
21 crime as well. They're not just a problem for us,  
22 but they're having problems in their lives that we  
23 can help with. So it's a mixture of solutions. The  
24 most successful programs have been one that started  
25 with a housing-first model. That is it's very hard

1 to get alcohol treatment or any other thing you're  
2 trying to do for somebody when they're on the  
3 streets. So getting somebody stabilized in housing.  
4 And there's good programs including the Safe Harbor  
5 Program and others, but then we've got to get  
6 treatment and we've got to get them into a permanent  
7 place out of that. And I'll work with the state  
8 agencies, I have experience there, to try and get  
9 that multi-phased approach so we can do something  
10 about it. Thank you.

11 That was the nicest "stop" I've ever had.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, I think what we have  
13 to recognize is there's really two categories of  
14 homelessness in Anchorage. You've got folks who,  
15 due to economic conditions, are homeless and for  
16 those we need to provide housing. The cure to  
17 homelessness is housing. And during my time on the  
18 Assembly I supported tax credits and other methods  
19 so that people can actually build homes and rental  
20 units that are affordable to folks. That's got to  
21 be job number one is making sure there is affordable  
22 housing.

23 And then the city can play a big role by  
24 making sure that there is a social service branch to  
25 those entities that are doing that good work. The

1 Clare House, the Brother Francis Shelter, Catholic  
2 Social Services, Salvation Army. They deliver  
3 services better than government does, but government  
4 can play a role by funding those agencies and will  
5 continue to do that under my administration.

6 But the second type of homeless, the  
7 chronic inebriant, they need medical care, and with  
8 the closing down of the Clitheroe Center and other  
9 facilities, we need to make sure we get more  
10 facilities so we can actually treat folks who do  
11 need that kind of help, because treatment is the  
12 first step to getting them back into being  
13 productive members and not being homeless anymore.  
14 So thank you.

15 MS. GUSTY: We've heard about and we've  
16 been talking about the influx of rural residents  
17 into Anchorage for a whole slew of different  
18 reasons. How will you, as mayor of Alaska's largest  
19 Native community, make our Native people feel  
20 welcome, respected and safe, and along those same  
21 lines address affordable housing problems?

22 Mr. Sullivan, we'll start with you.

23 MR. SULLIVAN: You're off the hook being  
24 first. Eric was wondering if he was going to go  
25 first every time.

1           The -- well, you know, that's a great  
2 question. One thing we've got to remember is that  
3 when I think about making people feel welcome and  
4 respected I think of all people and not just Native  
5 people. And I know we have a large Native audience  
6 here but, you know, our job is to recognize that all  
7 people have dignity, all people have rights. So  
8 when we talk about respect and welcoming we apply  
9 that across the board in my administration.  
10 Everybody should have that welcome, should have that  
11 respect.

12           We need to work closely with the regional  
13 corporations, we need to work with the village  
14 corporations, they all have entities here in town  
15 serving folks, and possibly we need to develop a  
16 welcome center where we can combine the services  
17 that they're providing, the services the city can  
18 provide, so if somebody does move into a new area or  
19 does move into Anchorage there is a one-stop shop  
20 where you can find out about job opportunities, find  
21 out about housing opportunities. And there is  
22 different people moving in. You've got families and  
23 so you need to make sure that their children know  
24 where the schools are and then what the educational  
25 opportunities are. So the city can work hand in

1 hand with -- the "stop" sign -- hand in hand to make  
2 sure that people are feeling welcome and can become  
3 integrated in society.

4 MR. CROFT: I think the next Anchorage  
5 mayor needs to be proud of being the mayor of the  
6 largest Native village in the state, I will be as  
7 mayor, and welcoming for any of our residents that  
8 are coming in. We want them to be here shopping.  
9 We want them to be here for AFN. We need to, as I  
10 said at the beginning, to understand that this is  
11 part of being an entire Alaskan community.

12 And on innovated approaches to housing, I  
13 was touring this morning actually in Mountain View  
14 with Cook Inlet Housing and seeing the -- what  
15 they're doing in cooperation with Rasmussen and  
16 other entities to build housings in -- to build  
17 housing in Mountain View and other areas. So we're  
18 doing innovative things. The question is having a  
19 mayor who's involved in those, understands them and  
20 wants to support them, we have innovative solutions  
21 that can help us on housing, we need to continue to  
22 support them.

23 MR. ZAYON: A significant percentage of  
24 Alaska Natives living in Anchorage are near or at  
25 the poverty level. How will the potential budget

1 cuts impact social services which are increasingly  
2 critical as more people move to Anchorage?

3 Dan Sullivan.

4 MR. SULLIVAN: That's a great question.  
5 One of the challenges when you're facing budget cuts  
6 is obviously where to cut, where are the priorities.  
7 And maintaining a social safety net is absolutely a  
8 top priority. If you're going to maintain a safe  
9 and healthy community, those who need our help the  
10 most is when a compassionate city with compassionate  
11 businesses, compassionate individuals step forward  
12 and help those folks. And we can't let up on that;  
13 particularly during tough economic times it becomes  
14 even more dramatic. So that's one area where you've  
15 got to make sure you maintain at least the same  
16 level of service if not more.

17 And we'll work with the Southcentral  
18 Foundation and the Cook Inlet Tribal Council and the  
19 Alaska Native Hospital and we'll make sure that  
20 services are getting delivered and we leverage  
21 dollars that -- plus us working together as a team  
22 we can do an awful lot to leverage the scarce social  
23 service dollars and make sure they're effective.  
24 And again, it goes back to some real basics:  
25 housing, jobs, education.

1           MR. CROFT: I believe we can bridge some  
2 of these gaps by using what we're doing at the  
3 federal and state level, so it's important that we  
4 have those relationships and that we take advantage  
5 of everything we can. I think we should use the  
6 stimulus money that's been offered. And right now  
7 is the time where Governor Palin is considering  
8 whether she's going to take that stimulus money, but  
9 I would like to use it for Title I education,  
10 special education, job training, a lot of the  
11 focused areas where we can help people through  
12 education, through training, through direct  
13 assistance get out of that situation, move on to  
14 productive lives. So it's an important aspect of  
15 how we bridge this. We may be able to use the  
16 resources we have and the connections we have from  
17 the federal and state arena to not have to have  
18 dramatic cuts in the areas you're talking about and  
19 in helping people. I think we can do that by  
20 working better together.

21           MS. GUSTY: There are close to 35,000  
22 Alaska Natives living in Anchorage, yet very few are  
23 employed in the police force and other agencies.  
24 What are your plans to increase the number of Alaska  
25 Natives in state government and the Anchorage police

1 department, and will you have a rural advisor?

2 MR. CROFT: I absolutely will keep the  
3 rural advisor. I think it's very important for us  
4 to understand, as I said, that we're part of a  
5 community and that's -- that's a measure of respect,  
6 it's a measure of saying to the rest of the state we  
7 understand our role here as the biggest state but we  
8 are going to do it in a cooperative way. And I  
9 met -- because it's very important to me that we  
10 increase the minority representation on the police  
11 force, we have one of the All Stars of that, Walt  
12 Monegan here, Chief Monegan, that we continue that  
13 effort. So I met with Chief of Police Huhn and  
14 asked him about those numbers, we reviewed it  
15 together. I'll do that as mayor. I'll emphasize to  
16 him and to all my staff that we need to hire from  
17 across the broad spectrum of Alaska.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. Thank you. The -- as  
19 far as employment and specifically saying whether  
20 you keep a particular position or not, it's been my  
21 position, and I have maintained this, that during a  
22 campaign you never talk about personnel. The last  
23 thing you want to do is build up false anxieties or  
24 false expectations about people and their employment  
25 with the city, so I don't talk about personnel

1 during a campaign.

2 Do I recognize the need to have a deep  
3 connection with our rural communities and with our  
4 in-town Native population? Absolutely. An advisory  
5 group would certainly be one way to do that and I  
6 would strongly support that, but I won't talk about  
7 personnel at this stage.

8 The second part of the question was  
9 getting Alaska Natives into city government and into  
10 the police force. You know, we need to define a  
11 better career path for our Native population to get  
12 into the police force starting literally at the  
13 junior high level and let people know if you want to  
14 be a police officer here's how you do it, here's the  
15 college courses to take and maybe even our satellite  
16 campuses we can have a defined career path of  
17 criminal justice that leads to a police academy so  
18 that there is a very good and direct way, you know,  
19 to become a police officer. As far as other hire, I  
20 will be open to all applicants and I encourage folks  
21 from the Native community to please apply.

22 MR. ZAYON: This is to Dan Sullivan.  
23 Where do you stand on the Alaska Native Veteran's  
24 Allotment Act and would you be willing to take this  
25 to our senators and representative in DC?

1           MR. SULLIVAN: My answer is absolutely.  
2     The Land Allotment Act essentially says that Alaska  
3     Native Veterans could receive up to two federal  
4     parcels or 160 acres of land in exchange for the  
5     service that they gave. And any time you can get  
6     land from the federal government into private hands  
7     I'm all for it.

8           MR. CROFT: I'll be a big proponent to  
9     these changes. You know, many of our Alaska Natives  
10    who were serving during that era from '64 to '75  
11    serving in Vietnam primarily missed out on an  
12    opportunity to take advantage of that. It's  
13    something that predates ANCSA, it's an important  
14    right and they shouldn't have to lose that because  
15    of their service. So reopening this law so that  
16    they can take advantage of it is the right thing to  
17    do for any number of reasons. I'll be a big  
18    cheerleader for giving them the right to have that  
19    Native allotment reopened up for them.

20           MS. GUSTY: How do you plan to enhance  
21    public safety in low income areas, and do you plan  
22    to keep or enhance Community Service Patrol as part  
23    of that?

24           Mr. Sullivan, we'll start with you.

25           MR. SULLIVAN: Let me start with the

1 second part first. Absolutely we'll keep and  
2 enhance Community Service Patrols. They perform a  
3 valuable service in our community, they help protect  
4 folks from themselves so when they've gotten into a  
5 bad situation, they do a great job and they're  
6 actually not a high-cost portion of our public  
7 safety team, so I think we can both keep and enhance  
8 that program.

9 As far as the public safety and low income  
10 areas, it's unfortunately true that our low income  
11 areas are oftentimes our high crime areas. And the  
12 best way to deal with that is to make sure that we  
13 have a stronger presence in those areas. More  
14 community policing, more directed policing towards  
15 the hot spot crime areas. This has worked in other  
16 areas that have shown a decrease in violent crime by  
17 focusing their resources where the crime is. And  
18 again, having that presence which shouldn't always  
19 be a -- I guess a reactive presence, but more of a  
20 proactive one where the police are getting to know  
21 the residents, getting to know the businesses,  
22 getting to know the students in the area and that's  
23 how you really enhance low income policing and  
24 safety.

25 MR. CROFT: One of the ways to get to know

1 the students in the area is the school resource  
2 officer program, an important program started with  
3 Chief Monegan that focus -- puts officers in the  
4 schools, not to arrest, but to know what's going on,  
5 to hear and listen and see children falling by the  
6 wayside. I think that's an important part in  
7 extending them to have those same cops be on the  
8 same beat in the summer so they can know which kids  
9 to watch out for, which kids need help.

10 I worked as a prosecutor for the last two  
11 years, as I said, worked with the community action  
12 patrols and we need a better source of  
13 communication, we worked on that when I was there so  
14 that we understand the community needs, not just at  
15 the policing but at the prosecution level as well.  
16 And we made improvements while I was there; we'll do  
17 more when I'm mayor. And I would absolutely keep  
18 the Community Service Patrol, but the big question  
19 is after you -- after they pick them up, what  
20 happens next? And so innovative and continued  
21 efforts on treatment is important too.

22 MR. ZAYON: Next question is for Croft.  
23 How would you, as mayor, entice AFN to stay in  
24 Anchorage every year?

25 MR. CROFT: Well, I know many of the

1 players there and I've already started talking with  
2 Albert Kookesh who I served with in the legislature  
3 and we became very good friends there. I think  
4 it's a -- it's knowing the people involved, it's  
5 reaching out to them, it's going into rural Alaska  
6 and talking about how important it is to Anchorage.  
7 I think for all too long Anchorage took it for  
8 granted and they were -- AFN was right to get us to  
9 appreciate it more, it was right to bring that up.  
10 But we do that by being inviting, by making it -- by  
11 making it something that AFN sees the benefits of  
12 doing and by making it clear to them that we see  
13 ourselves as part of this state, not as something  
14 separate from it. So you do it by being a good  
15 ambassador to rural Alaska and actively seeking,  
16 promoting, asking it -- asking for it.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: I guess what I would like  
18 to do is something a little bit more specific, and  
19 that is literally when AFN is here turn downtown  
20 into a city-wide festival, let's make this an awful  
21 lot of fun for people to come to this convention so  
22 that they'll want to come back. You know, a lot of  
23 the AFN delegates bring their families with them and  
24 I've heard there's a lack of things for families to  
25 do. Let's make sure that skating rink at the town

1 center is active and open and that we have skates to  
2 rent so that -- or just skates to use so that  
3 families can go out and enjoy that. You know, where  
4 the PAC is used to be the city gym, which is where I  
5 literally grew up as a kid. In fact my friend  
6 Richard is here, we played basketball together many  
7 years ago, and there's no opportunity for anybody to  
8 go shoot a basket, why not open Central Junior High  
9 in the evenings and have an opportunity for  
10 delegates to come play a little basketball. Let's  
11 get the merchants more involved so that there is  
12 literally great incentive to come visit different  
13 areas of Anchorage and different businesses and  
14 really try and make it a festival of Anchorage,  
15 let's make this a celebration starting with the  
16 welcoming at the airport until the last delegate  
17 leaves town. We can do a lot better.

18 MS. GUSTY: Knowing that Anchorage has the  
19 potential to lead the state in developing a model,  
20 sustainable community, what will you do as mayor to  
21 transition away from the use of fossil fuels to lead  
22 a more abundant, connected and healthier future for  
23 all of Anchorage?

24 Mr. Sullivan, we'll start with you.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, you know, the future

1 many, many years from now will probably not be  
2 fossil fuels but the reality is that right now and  
3 for the next several generations fossil fuels will  
4 continue to play a large part in the economic and  
5 energy growth of Anchorage and Alaska. You know,  
6 the wind farm on Fire Island is a great idea. We've  
7 got hydropower across the way at Chakachamna. We've  
8 got geothermal potential. But the reality is right  
9 now 130,000 homes are heated on natural gas and  
10 we're running out of cheap Cook Inlet natural gas.  
11 If we don't find an alternative supply this town  
12 will not continue to progress and it won't be a  
13 great place to live for any of us if the heat goes  
14 off or if we have to resort to coal burning or  
15 something else.

16 So natural gas is the short-term solution.  
17 And when I say short-term I'm talking 60, 80 years  
18 because it's clean burning of all the fossil fuels  
19 and it's the direction that we need to go. So I  
20 serve on the ANGA board, the natural gas development  
21 authority. We're working every day on getting a  
22 spur line to hook into the main natural gas pipeline  
23 so Anchorage and Southcentral can have cheap  
24 affordable energy for literally the next several  
25 generations.

1           MR. CROFT: Well, I think we cannot only  
2 be a state leader, I think we can be a national or  
3 world leader in this. We're very close on the Fire  
4 Island wind farm that I supported in the  
5 legislature, I'm very excited about that. And Lake  
6 Chakachamna makes a great pair for wind and hydro.  
7 Particularly the new modern form of hydro that  
8 doesn't have so many environmental impacts is a  
9 great trade-off, because when the wind is not  
10 blowing you can take a little more hydropower off.

11           You know, I can't see Russia from my house  
12 but I can see a volcano and I can see some of the  
13 biggest tides in the world. I think we have a great  
14 potential to lead the nation in alternative energy  
15 so when somebody flies into Anchorage they see the  
16 evidence of us living off our natural environment.  
17 And we've got to stop burning natural gas for  
18 electricity because we're going to need it for our  
19 homes. I think we can do much better and I'm very  
20 excited about how an active Anchorage mayor can push  
21 those issues.

22           MR. ZAYON: Well, that concludes our  
23 moderated portion of our questions. And at this --  
24 at this moment we'd like to open it up to the floor  
25 and give the candidates a one-minute response. So

1 if you have any questions, we have two microphones  
2 up here. And if you're interested in asking a  
3 question, please feel free to do so.

4 And please state your name clearly for the  
5 record. Thank you.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: My name is Vernita  
7 Herdman. I retired, but I have been a tribal  
8 advocate since 1984. I was very interested to come  
9 here because I know how important the mayoralty of  
10 Anchorage is in Alaska politics. Given the records  
11 of two former mayors, one of whom served two terms  
12 as our governor, one of whom is a sitting senator,  
13 what are your aspirations to higher office?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Who did you want, both?

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

16 MR. CROFT: Simultaneously.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: I'll go first. I have no  
18 higher aspiration to further office. After serving  
19 two terms as mayor I plan to retire from public  
20 service and focus on the private sector. I don't  
21 think you should be career politicians. I will have  
22 done nine years on the assembly and six years as  
23 mayor. I will be done serving as an elected  
24 official at that point. I'm going to put all my  
25 energy into six years as making this city the best

1 city it can be.

2 MR. CROFT: I agree. I want to be mayor  
3 and I don't know whether I'd serve a second term if  
4 I got the first one, I wouldn't want to presume on  
5 what the electorate would do, but that's what I want  
6 to do. The -- you know, I have two small children,  
7 an eight-year-old and an 11-year-old, just turned  
8 from 11, and I have to answer to a higher authority,  
9 my wife. I have no permission to run for any other  
10 office.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: Good afternoon. I'd like  
12 to thank everybody that puts this on because it  
13 gives the Native people a voice and we are not -- we  
14 are not the majority here. And so it's very  
15 important that we have our voices heard on the  
16 Native issues and concerns that we have.

17 And my question is -- my name is Lynette  
18 Moreno-Hinz. And for almost 30 years I have been in  
19 the cab industry. I know the hard knocks, I know  
20 the difficult times that a lot of our Native people  
21 when they come to this community have.

22 And what my question is, is that I would  
23 like to know between the two mayor candidates if you  
24 know the name of Della Brown and if you could  
25 elaborate on that a little bit, because it --

1     because a lot of Native people, we do know that name  
2     and we do know what happens to Native women. Thank  
3     you very much.

4             MS. GUSTY: Mr. Croft, you can go ahead.

5             MR. SULLIVAN: Go ahead. So you know, I  
6     do know.

7             MR. CROFT: Lynette, I, as I said, served  
8     for two years as a prosecutor, served on the STAR  
9     Board, Standing Together Against Rape, and do know.  
10    And we need to do a lot better on how we -- on how  
11    we take care of -- of our residents. Thank you for  
12    bringing that up.

13            MR. SULLIVAN: Della Brown was murdered,  
14    raped. The gentleman that we think did it, even  
15    though courts didn't agree, got loose and killed  
16    another woman. Unacceptable. And we need to do  
17    obviously a better job. You know, Anchorage is one  
18    of the nation's leaders in rape. It's unacceptable.  
19    And that statistic has continued to grow over the  
20    last six years. We absolutely need to do a better  
21    job. We've done some innovative things under Chief  
22    Monegan, for example. Stationing more officers  
23    downtown during times when business is closed but,  
24    you know, it's just -- we have to find a way to do a  
25    better job. Part of it comes with education so that

1 folks know where not to be at certain times, and --  
2 but certainly part of it is the judicial system  
3 needs to put the hammer down on those kind of  
4 criminals. They should not be released back into  
5 society.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: My name is Harriet  
7 Beleal. I lived in Anchorage 33 years and moved to  
8 Sitka recently. But speaking of Della Brown, it's  
9 very interesting that the man that did murder her  
10 got off the hook. There is such a thing as what  
11 they call disparaging justice that exists. And now  
12 that he's been accused of killing another lady they  
13 are pursuing it more vigorously to get him behind  
14 bars to say. Like I said, disparaging justice is  
15 really interesting because it shows the -- how they  
16 feel about Native women and how they feel about  
17 other women, so I just wanted to mention that.

18 But my main point today was I worked as a  
19 social worker and got my education at University of  
20 Alaska in social work. I notice one thing that  
21 Bettye Davis always fights for is social services in  
22 Anchorage. I did help with the Beans Cafe and  
23 Brother Francis when it was first started back when  
24 Tony Knowles was mayor. And people like Pat -- I  
25 forget her last name. She's an Inupiaq Native from

1 up north but she's very active. We met with the  
2 mayor a lot of times because we could see the people  
3 that are homeless. And go without a meal for a week  
4 and see how you feel and you'll understand the  
5 homeless people; sleep out in the street for a week.  
6 And this is just so you can relate to them. It's  
7 not just housing or jobs, it's more than that.

8           When you have Darwin's theory of survival,  
9 the first thing he thinks of is his shelter and his  
10 food, and that's the way the pyramid goes. So you  
11 can't tell a homeless person to go and apply for a  
12 house and a job and think that it's going to be that  
13 easy. But I think the social services is one of the  
14 last services to be cut. Cut the roads if you want  
15 because we can live without new roads, but don't cut  
16 the social services.

17           The other thing I'd like to say is that I  
18 think the mayor needs to be open-minded with hiring  
19 qualified Native people that have gone to college,  
20 educated themselves, and proved to everyone that  
21 they are as capable as anybody to hold a job up in  
22 the mayor's office or anywhere else, because why  
23 tell our young people get an education if we're not  
24 going to promote them in the field.

25           So I would advocate for you to hire

1 young -- any Native person that's qualified for the  
2 position. I'm not just saying hire your friends or  
3 relatives, I'm saying hire qualified Native people.  
4 This is very important, because it's been something  
5 that I've always advocated. I have gone before the  
6 school district for cultural cross country --  
7 cross-cultural training for the teachers to  
8 understand Native people. I've talked about the  
9 dropout rate. People that know me, racism, rape,  
10 everything else, I have always been an advocate. I  
11 can't do it forever and it's going to pass -- pass  
12 it down to our younger people. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SULLIVAN: I think I can speak for  
15 Eric in saying that we both agree with everything  
16 you've just said.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: I wanted to thank you,  
18 Eric, for everything that you've done for rural  
19 Alaska schools and your extensive travels all over  
20 the state within your tenure in the state  
21 legislature.

22 Anchorage and the Mat-Su are growing and  
23 pulling resources from the rest of the state. How  
24 will you make sure that we don't become a city-state  
25 and that we maintain a state-state, and how will you

1 work with the legislature, the Anchorage caucus and  
2 the Municipal League on making sure that legislative  
3 needs are met across the state? And then just a  
4 really quick comment. Anchorage, we come here for  
5 everything. And so this is our town, too, so the  
6 mayoral race is something that we're all watching.  
7 Thank you.

8 Oh. Anna Sattler, Alaska Native Village  
9 CEO Association.

10 MR. CROFT: Thank you, Anna. I mean, it's  
11 a significant worry on rural Alaska talking with my  
12 legislative colleagues about it, talking with Reggie  
13 or Albert or Lemman. It's a big concern that you can  
14 help to allay those fears if you do a lot of work to  
15 let them know that you're not going to push your  
16 weight around, you understand your place.

17 I think an important part of it is  
18 Anchorage not having a sales tax because it's so  
19 much of where rural Alaska buys its goods and that  
20 would just directly sort of export a cost out to a  
21 place that can't afford it here. It's also probably  
22 one of the ways we keep AFN, frankly, is by  
23 continuing to not have a sales tax, one of the  
24 things that rural Alaska likes. But keeping that  
25 rural affairs coordinator, reaching out and going,

1 not just staying in Anchorage but going out to rural  
2 Alaska and letting them understand that you're going  
3 to operate as an important city, maybe -- again, but  
4 within a statewide context.

5 MR. SULLIVAN: That's a really great  
6 question, because when you've got half the  
7 population of your whole state in one region there  
8 is a tendency to become so centric on just this  
9 region and forget that there is the rest of the  
10 state. I had the privilege of serving on the AML  
11 board -- the Alaska Municipal League for those of  
12 you who don't know what AML might be -- the Alaska  
13 Municipal League board of directors for three or  
14 four years during my last term on the assembly, got  
15 to know so many leaders from all over the state and  
16 man did I get a good perspective on their needs and  
17 their financial responsibilities to their community  
18 and their social problems. So I bring that  
19 perspective to exactly what you said, we can't just  
20 be Anchorage-centric.

21 And on the same note, you asked about  
22 relationship with state leaders, I have a great  
23 working relationship with the administration, the  
24 leadership and the house and the senate, I've worked  
25 with those folks for a number of years, both in the

1 private sector and in my last nine years on the  
2 Assembly and I think we'll be able to be very, very  
3 effective in making sure Anchorage's needs are taken  
4 care of, but that we don't lose that statewide  
5 perspective.

6 MR. ZAYON: Thank you. Due to the time,  
7 we'd like to ask that you try to keep your question  
8 and your statements to a minimum. And we apologize  
9 that at five till we're going to have to kind of  
10 wrap it up and give our candidates a last couple of  
11 minutes to give their closing remarks, so thank you.

12 MALE SPEAKER: Steven Holley. I  
13 understand that you did state some of your plans to  
14 address the energy crisis or issues that we are  
15 having right now. But with the concerns of a  
16 blackout, or a brownout, I should say, in the  
17 Anchorage area and the insufficient supply of  
18 natural gas to heat homes to produce power, let  
19 alone create revenue to -- with export, what is your  
20 plan to address this issue?

21 MR. CROFT: Asking us to elaborate -- I'm  
22 not sure how many of you could hear, but elaborate  
23 on energy issues and particularly talking about the  
24 threat to brownouts. You know, I think we need to  
25 do a number of things better. We sometimes become

1 fixated on the huge project. Big pusher for,  
2 advocate for natural gas pipeline and getting the  
3 gas down to Southcentral, but sometimes Anchorage  
4 and Alaska concentrates on the big when we can do  
5 the small better. We can do small wind and small  
6 solar here. We can get the Fire Island online, the  
7 Fire Island wind farm online. We can make our grid  
8 more accessible to those small projects coming on so  
9 you can defray a little more of your housing costs.

10 Conservation is an important part of any  
11 energy plan and rationalizing and consolidating the  
12 utilities that we have at Southcentral. All those  
13 things save energy, that saves gas and it helps on  
14 the -- on what you're talking about, sir, about how  
15 we might have this crisis. So we need to do a lot  
16 of small, medium and large things better.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, I agree with what Eric  
18 said. The city has taken the lead in some of that  
19 conservation efforts, during my time on the Assembly  
20 we funded moving forward with becoming a literally  
21 green public facility so that we used much less  
22 energy than we before and we need to do that on a  
23 personal level as well.

24 The short-term answer, though, he talked  
25 about possible rolling of blackouts, and that is a

1 potential crisis in the making. Within seven or  
2 eight years our utilities, Enstar is talking about  
3 not being able to handle peak demand on those cold  
4 winter months where it might get to be ten or 15  
5 below zero and that is a crisis in this town in the  
6 making, because if the system shuts down it takes  
7 literally months to get the system back up, they  
8 have to go home by home by home, and so we cannot  
9 allow that to happen.

10 And again the key is natural gas at this  
11 stage. And if we can get other projects online and  
12 start taking that load off by generating electricity  
13 like Eric mentioned, but we need to move forward.  
14 Everybody is talking about these plans, it's time to  
15 get building on some of these plans.

16 MALE SPEAKER: Yes. My name is Ron  
17 Jordan. I'm chair, Taku Campbell Community Council.  
18 I have a question with regards to potential fire  
19 hazards along the greenbelt, along the trail system  
20 where we have a lot of homeless people living there,  
21 Native and non-Native. How would you address these  
22 issues as well as on the Hillside where it has a  
23 bigger fire potential?

24 MS. GUSTY: Mr. Sullivan, you can start.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: That's a great question.

1 Talk about another potential crisis that we probably  
2 haven't done as good a job as we should in dealing  
3 with that potential, you know, there is an awful lot  
4 of area of the Hillside where you've got dead growth  
5 and literally being a tinderbox for if we have a  
6 really dry summer you could have a major blaze up on  
7 that Hillside. The fire department told me one time  
8 if that happens they cannot disperse their trucks  
9 because the Hillside is so big and so little  
10 connectivity that the line of demarcation might be  
11 Tudor Road, which is -- I mean, that's unbelievable  
12 to think that you really couldn't respond much  
13 further than that. So if you weren't lucky enough  
14 to catch something very early you've got a problem.

15 We probably need to look at more  
16 mechanized clearing of some of the dead growth. We  
17 had a lot of federal money come in to help with that  
18 problem, but I'm not sure it's been spent as  
19 efficiently and wisely as it could have been. But  
20 it is a problem and our city, public safety and  
21 emergency management folks need to make sure that  
22 there is a solid game plan to deal with it because  
23 it could happen.

24 MR. CROFT: That's sort of two problems in  
25 one, fire danger and the homeless issue we were

1 talking about before. I have participated in  
2 volunteer cleanups where we clear out some of that  
3 brush. And I think that would be a place to start.  
4 It does double-duty. It both clears out some of the  
5 fire hazard and it makes it more visible into those  
6 areas and makes it harder for those homeless camps  
7 to stay hidden. But it will come back to a lot of  
8 the things we discussed before. Simply identifying  
9 a homeless camp or the police getting them to leave  
10 doesn't solve the problem. Simply prohibiting the  
11 homeless from getting money at the intersection  
12 doesn't solve the homelessness's problem. We need  
13 much more of a multi-targeted approach with how we  
14 identify, how we help and how we bring targeted  
15 alcohol treatment, voluntarily if they will or  
16 through other mechanisms if they won't, to get  
17 those -- to get the people out of that situation.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Annette  
19 Evans Smith. And my question is for both  
20 candidates. It has to do with the graduation rate  
21 for Alaska Native students. As mayor, specifically  
22 what would each of you do to improve the graduation  
23 rate for Alaska Native students? I think the last  
24 number I saw pegged it at about 42 percent. That is  
25 just not good enough.

1           MR. CROFT: You're absolutely right. And  
2 we have a problem both with the dropout rate in  
3 general and the Native dropout rate in particular.  
4 Two things that I think I'd start with as mayor, but  
5 what I do in general is listen and reach out, so  
6 listen to the community and listen to the educators  
7 about what they think is going on. I talked with  
8 the military youth academy, which has a great  
9 success rate, Native and non-Native, in taking  
10 at-risk teens and getting them to finish school.  
11 And I talked about with them a cooperative program  
12 where if the district will identify some of the  
13 dropouts, if we can take the effort to find them, we  
14 can use that highly successful program and 80  
15 percent of it is paid for by the Reserves, so it's a  
16 very cost-effective program.

17           In addition, I was an early proponent of  
18 charter schools, and so -- because I want as much  
19 diversity within our public school system as we can.  
20 So having more solutions that address more specific  
21 Native needs so that they can feel like school is  
22 more relevant to them, which is often the dropout  
23 issue. They have pressing problems or they don't  
24 feel like school is relevant to their lives.

25           MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. Thank you for the

1 question. The dropout rate in our Anchorage school  
2 district is unacceptable. What we've seen over the  
3 last decade is a school district budget that's gone  
4 from 400 million to nearly 800 million with a flat  
5 enrollment, graduation rates are down, dropout rates  
6 are up, test scores are mediocre at best. That is  
7 unacceptable and this community should be up in arms  
8 about it, you really should. You should be talking  
9 to your school board members and your superintendent  
10 every single day demanding better results because  
11 we're not getting value.

12 For Native students in general, or in  
13 specific, I think we need to provide more vocational  
14 opportunities. Not everybody wants to go through  
15 high school. In fact, I think you'd find that the  
16 dropout rate is a direct result of people not being  
17 engaged. And so you either find a way to literally  
18 one-on-one engage students better towards an  
19 academic path, or at an earlier age, at eighth or  
20 ninth grade, literally start training folks to be  
21 job skilled. We have -- we should have several King  
22 Career Centers by now so folks can learn a trade, go  
23 out there and be productive members of society and  
24 not feel like they have to be on a college career  
25 path, so college is not the path for everyone. I

1 think we're lagging way behind on our vocational  
2 opportunities.

3 MS. GUSTY: Due to time constraints we  
4 only have time for these last two questions, so go  
5 ahead.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hi. My name  
7 is Deborah Vo and my question is on energy, and you  
8 may have touched up a little bit with it. Mine is  
9 on the gas pipeline, whether it be the Denali  
10 pipeline way or the TransCanada way. I want to know  
11 what your thoughts are on it and what would you do  
12 as mayor to promote this?

13 MS. GUSTY: Mr. Sullivan.

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, again, this is hugely  
15 important to Anchorage and so the mayor has to play  
16 a big role in it. And as I mentioned I served on  
17 the Natural Gas Development Authority board and  
18 we're prepared to get gas to Southcentral either off  
19 a big pipeline, it doesn't matter which project it  
20 is, they're both talking about a highway route that  
21 goes to Delta Junction and then to the Canadian  
22 border.

23 And again on ANGA what we've been working  
24 on is the spur line. But if the big line doesn't  
25 happen we're prepared to take our spur line and go

1 all the way to the North Slope to supply Anchorage  
2 and all of Alaska at that stage with cheap energy.  
3 Natural gas on the North Slope is an incredibly rich  
4 gas, it's got tons of propane, tons of other  
5 materials for secondary use, and so it's absolutely  
6 essential that the mayor of Anchorage play a key  
7 role in making sure one of these projects gets  
8 developed. And I know so much about it from my  
9 years of involvement that I will definitely make it  
10 a focus of my administration.

11 MR. CROFT: It's vital that we get that  
12 gas down to us, Deborah. You know, there's been  
13 talk of a bullet line for a long time, and Dan  
14 mentioned it before. The problem is we need  
15 affordable gas. And a bullet line of just enough to  
16 supply Southcentral doesn't pencil out. We need to  
17 have the export, whether to the Lower 48 through  
18 Canada or through Valdez, in order to share the cost  
19 of that line. When you do a thick line to Delta, we  
20 can bring a line up that brings gas to us at an  
21 affordable price, but we can't bring it all the way  
22 down.

23 So it's an Anchorage mayor that  
24 understands those issues and keeps the pressure on  
25 to get, whether it's the Denali project, the

1 TransCanada, an LNG line, it doesn't matter to us,  
2 we need the gas here and now or very soon. So an  
3 Anchorage mayor with that experience of it,  
4 knowledge of it and a drive to push it so that we  
5 get the gas to where we can reach it.

6 MALE SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Verner  
7 Wilson. I was an intern for former Begich -- for  
8 Mayor Begich, and I just wanted to say I'm a Bristol  
9 Bay fisherman and I have a couple of concerns with  
10 candidate Sullivan, just your past support for a  
11 sales tax. As people have said before, you know, a  
12 lot of our families here in Alaska and around, I'm  
13 from Bristol Bay, we come here to go shopping for  
14 food so that we can go fishing out in the summer at  
15 home.

16 And I just wanted to say that I was also  
17 concerned about your association as board of  
18 director with Truth about Pebble, and, you know, I  
19 want you to respect the fact that Bristol Bay  
20 fisheries provides so much to Anchorage whether it's  
21 jobs for fishermen, whether it's food for the  
22 restaurants, whether it's groceries for families  
23 here in Alaska. I know all kinds of fishermen that  
24 come from all over the world to go fishing in  
25 Bristol Bay and they have to come here to Anchorage

1 and they spend a lot of money, so I would hope that  
2 you both respect that in the future, and thank you  
3 very much for being here.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, since I guess the  
6 question was directed to me, I'll be the first to  
7 answer. I absolutely do respect the culture and the  
8 opportunities and the many, many centuries of  
9 history of Bristol Bay fishing. It's a renewable  
10 resource that should never be compromised. The  
11 Truth about Pebble board does one thing. It says  
12 let's allow the permitting process that Alaska has,  
13 which is one of the strictest in the world, to do  
14 its thing, to analyze permits. That's what it's  
15 supposed to do and that's all we advocate on the  
16 Truth about Pebble board. We don't advocate the  
17 project, we advocate the process.

18 The second part of your question was about  
19 a sales tax. You know, if you go to a financial  
20 advisor what does he tell you, have a diversified  
21 portfolio. One of the problems of Anchorage is we  
22 don't have a diversified portfolio of revenues and  
23 that's why you see many, many cities have a  
24 combination of taxes. Some sales tax, some property  
25 tax, tobacco tax, that you've got a variety so that

1 you're hitting a broad spectrum of people who might  
2 be using your services but may not contribute to  
3 those services, so that's why having a variety is  
4 important.

5 Now, Eric has mentioned something about a  
6 14 percent sales tax which no one else other than he  
7 has ever mentioned. I do not support a sales tax at  
8 that level and voters would never support a sales  
9 tax at that level. But as a mix of revenues, I  
10 think it's probably a reasonable idea.

11 MR. CROFT: You know, at one -- at the --  
12 one of the prior debates, actually, the April 5th  
13 debate at KTUU, Jason Moore asked very specifically,  
14 Dan, whether he supported a complete sales tax, that  
15 is a sales tax that will replace all of the property  
16 taxes, he said he did then, and that's the problem,  
17 that's not a diversified revenue, that's pushing all  
18 of city government onto a sales tax which would mean  
19 that 14 percent, it would mean a very high one, and  
20 it would mean a non-diversified portfolio, it would  
21 be very bad for Anchorage.

22 On the Pebble Mine I'm a proponent of  
23 responsible development in the state. I worked for  
24 us opening ANWR, because I think we can do that  
25 responsibly. I just don't believe we can do the

1 Pebble project responsibly and protect that  
2 invaluable fisheries resource. So I will support  
3 economic development and resource development where  
4 I think the adequate precautions have been made. I  
5 just don't think it is possible, that kind of  
6 project in that sensitive of an area.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. ZAYON: So at this time we would like  
9 to begin with our closing remarks starting with  
10 Mr. Sullivan.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you. And just to  
12 start off by correcting my opponent, which I hate to  
13 do because again, I don't like to engage an  
14 opponent, I like to run for the office. But when  
15 Mr. Moore asked me the question, we were literally  
16 out of time, and I said, yes, I supported it if it  
17 replaced the property tax, but I didn't get the  
18 chance to say, but only after a community-wide  
19 discussion to determine whether or not that's the  
20 course the city wants to go, because no mayor can  
21 implement a sales tax. It takes a 60 percent vote  
22 of the people. And if you don't have consensus  
23 behind that idea it's just going nowhere. So you  
24 engage the community. That's how you develop good  
25 public policy.

1           I'm running for office, you've heard me  
2 mention numerous times about the quality of life in  
3 Anchorage, I believe we have a great quality of  
4 life, but I think there's at least four areas where  
5 we need to do a better job and that's what I'll work  
6 on initially as mayor. First and foremost we have  
7 to get our financial house in order. You saw how  
8 the assembly and the administration over the last  
9 few months essentially passed a city budget that did  
10 not balance. That's unacceptable. I spent nine  
11 years on the assembly, we always put forth balanced  
12 budgets. And they compounded that just a few weeks  
13 later by passing contracts that essentially added to  
14 the problem. So that was not responsible. If we're  
15 going to ask you for your hard-earned money to  
16 support government we better do a good job spending  
17 it wisely and responsibly.

18           Public safety is of concern to me.  
19 Overall crime statistics are down in Anchorage but  
20 violent crime is up significantly. In the last six  
21 years aggravated assault is up 60 percent, robbery  
22 is up 59 percent, rape is up 8 percent. These are  
23 the violent crimes. I'm not so concerned about  
24 someone stealing my bike, but I'm sure concerned  
25 about my wife and daughter out there on the streets

1 of Anchorage not feeling safe.

2           We need to do a better job of maintaining  
3 our public facilities. We built some nice new  
4 buildings over the last few years and I've supported  
5 those buildings. The new convention center is the  
6 perfect example. The Dena'ina Center is absolutely  
7 beautiful, a great community asset. The new museum  
8 expansion as well. But we need to do a better job  
9 of taking care of our existing facilities, our  
10 roads, our parks are getting a little shabby around  
11 the edges, and we have a responsibility as a city if  
12 you build something you maintain it. We need to do  
13 a better job.

14           We've talked about energy and I think  
15 we've probably talked enough about it. I think it's  
16 a keystone of the next administration, to make sure  
17 this town has cheap affordable energy for  
18 generations to come or we will not progress as a  
19 city.

20           You know, Chris Anderson who owns the  
21 Anchorage Glacier Brewhouse asked me one day, Dan,  
22 why can't we be the world's greatest northern city?  
23 And you know what, I don't know why we can't be the  
24 world's greatest northern city. We have incredible  
25 assets, incredible people. We've got an economy

1 that most cities would literally die for with all  
2 the economic engines we have, the new med district  
3 and the port and the military bases and our cargo  
4 airport. We've got Native corporation headquarters,  
5 oil company headquarters. I mean, we just are so  
6 blessed. An active tourism trade. Combining those  
7 assets, developing them better and developing a new  
8 attitude of respect for all people in this town, we  
9 can be the world's greatest northern city. I can't  
10 get it done in six years, but I want to get the ball  
11 rolling towards that goal and that attitude, and  
12 that's the kind of attitude Anchorage should have.

13 My name is Dan Sullivan,  
14 sullivanforanchorage.com, and on May 5th I would  
15 sure appreciate your vote. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CROFT: Thank you so much for having  
18 me. As I started with, I remember the great fights,  
19 but as a child, I remember the great fights about  
20 ANILCA and ANCSA and Molly Hootch and just how we  
21 grew up together as a state and how we solved some  
22 of those difficult issues regarding Native American  
23 rights. And I remember it as a spectator watching  
24 my dad in the legislature going down to Juneau and,  
25 as I said, meeting some of my heroes from that

1 fight, and in some ways we have come so far. We're  
2 at a Native Professionals forum and we have got  
3 active and involved and vibrant regional corps with  
4 their nonprofit arms doing great work. We talked  
5 about some of the work they're doing specifically in  
6 our community now. So this is a state that is  
7 growing up, is growing into its obligations. A city  
8 that needs to take a bigger role in doing that. A  
9 city that needs to understand its own diversity and  
10 its role within a diverse state and start acting  
11 more like a leader of a diverse state with a proud  
12 history that is not just of gold rush pioneers, but  
13 of pioneers long before that.

14 So I'm excited to be here. I appreciate  
15 the forum. It's, as Dan said, one of the better  
16 attended that we have had, maybe that's the focus of  
17 this runoff election coming down or maybe just good  
18 planning efforts, but whatever it is, thank you guys  
19 for coming out. I'll be available here for more  
20 questions. My name is Eric Croft. I'm very proud  
21 to be running for your mayor, and I would appreciate  
22 your vote on May 5th. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 (Proceedings concluded.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Katherine L. Novak, RPR, Registered  
Professional Reporter, here by certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken  
by me in stenotype shorthand and thereafter  
transcribed by me, and that the transcript  
constitutes a full, true and correct record of said  
proceedings taken on the date and time indicated  
therein.

Further, that I am a disinterested person  
to said action.

---

Katherine L. Novak, RPR  
Registered Professional Reporter

Signed April 27, 2009

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