

Joe Schmidt

Commissioner

P.O. Box 112000

Juneau, AK 99811-2000

www.corrections.state.ak.us



Richard Schmitz

Special Assistant

907.465.4640

cell: 907.209 5245

richard.schmitz@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-083

June 18, 2008

DOC, CITY OF SEWARD TO SIGN MOU TO BUILD 144-BED EXPANSION AT SPRING CREEK CORR. CENTER

JUNEAU – Commissioner Joe Schmidt will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Seward on Monday, June 23, during a meeting of the city council. With the agreement, bonds will be sold to fund construction of a 144-bed expansion at Spring Creek Correctional Center.

The \$22.8 million project will also renovate the prison kitchen and other space, and relocate some utilities and security fencing.

Spring Creek opened in 1988, and presently houses approximately 550 inmates.

The process to fund prison expansion was set out in Senate Bill 65, passed in 2004, which also guides the process for construction of a 1,536-bed prison at Point Mackenzie and a 68-bed expansion at Yukon-Kuskokwim C.C. in Bethel.

“Spring Creek was designed to be expanded, so this project is a good fit for the department,” said Commissioner Joe Schmidt. “Ninety five percent of our prisoners will release back into our communities. Having a medium custody unit will give the facility new versatility, particularly when it comes to preparation for community reintegration.”

The new unit will be ready to open in 2010. The council meeting begins at 7 pm.

###

