



January 22, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to provide a letter of reference for Lt. Tom Dunn. I can absolutely recommend him for any position or endeavor he chooses to engage in. Lt. Dunn is hard-working, proactive, adaptable and he has a genuine interest in community service and public health.

Lt. Dunn's work intersected with the Mat-Su Health Foundation in several different ways. In 2019, he was selected for the Mat-Su Health Foundation Bert Hall Award for Commitment to the Health of the Community. The "Bertie" is an annual recognition presented by the foundation to an individual who consistently exemplifies commitment to working at the systems level to improve the health and wellness of Mat-Su residents. Lt. Dunn was chosen for this honor because of his work with the Mat-Su Crisis Intervention Team Coalition and Mental Health First Aid training. These programs stress appropriate intervention to ensure safe and effective interactions between first responders and citizens experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Lt. Dunn made a tremendous contribution to our community with his consistent support and as a direct result of Lt. Dunn's advocacy, our first responders are better equipped to handle difficult situations, and all Alaska State Troopers assigned to Mat-Su have had the Mental Health First Aid course.

Lt. Dunn has over 20 years of service to the State of Alaska and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). He became a member of the Mat-Su Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coalition in 2015 along with Captain Hans Brinke and completed the 40-hour Mat-Su CIT Academy in 2018. Because of his CIT advocacy, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has allowed the inclusion of the CIT graduation lapel pin to be included as part of the official AST uniform. After completing the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course Dunn became interested in training his trooper staff. He was certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health as an instructor for the program in 2017 and has since trained and co-trained with local emergency medical services (EMS) instructors more than 100 first and secondary responders in Mat-Su. His reach in this effort has expanded to the DPS training academy in Sitka and the prison system in Seward.

At the local level, Lt. Dunn continued to spread training to various community representatives on the importance of mental health work and appropriate crisis intervention in the field. In 2018, Lt. Dunn arranged for the continuation of the AST Mat-Su Citizens Academy and trained twenty-five (25) Community Council representatives in MHFA.

Lt. Dunn would be a strong asset to any organization. Please feel free to contact me at (907) 352-2864 or eripley@healthymatsu.org if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Ripley".

Elizabeth Ripley
Chief Executive Officer