

May 27, 2022

To My Fellow Alaskans,

My name is John Holman. I'm 52 years old, was born in Upstate New York and moved with my parents to bush Alaska when I was about three years old. We lived in Levelock on the lower Kvichak River in Southwest Alaska. I grew up a Village kid. My parents were the teachers and I was the little kid that lived in everybody's house. I was part of that world and loved it. I chased squirrels, fished and learned to ride a bike. All of my earliest memories are from Village life and I still tell my kids stories about it.

When I was about five, my parents transferred to Ekwok on the Nushagak River where we lived for three years. My sister and brother were born in Dillingham. My Dad flew my Mom in his little 170 when she went into labor. Again, my memories of life in the Village are my childhood. In 1974, my Dad bought the property on the Lower Kvichak and shortly after started our family business. We continued winters in Ekwok until the Christmas of 1976 when a crazy, drugged 16 year old kid murdered the only other white people in the village. He came to kill us but luckily, we were gone. My Mom couldn't get over it, so that spring we moved to Palmer, Alaska. After that, I only visited friends in the summer while growing up on the Kvichak.

At 19 years old I got my pilots license and began working for the family business. I raised my three kids on the Kvichak and in 2007 I bought the business from my Dad. Over the years, I've lost touch with many people I knew growing up but still maintain friendships throughout the region. I've supported school sports teams, worked to protect our salmon and helped many fellow Alaskan's traveling the river. I pay thousands of dollars in leases, permits and taxes in the region and have always been a good steward to the land, fish and game. Over the years I have helped Native friends with the struggles of substance abuse and am currently supporting a friend from Ambler, Alaska. He's had several DUI's and is trying very hard to get his life back together. He's currently preparing to start a good job at Red Dog mine and I believe he and I will both recover from these sad events. We are all just people in the end, we all make mistakes and learn from them.

On April 15th, 2022 I suffered an adverse reaction to an over-the-counter medication leading to the events that unfolded in the Hotel Captain Cook. I engaged in unusual and regretful behavior. In the process, I am accused of insulting many people, including those whom I consider friends. It's been reported that I called 911 and made some threatening statements, specifically pointed at Alaskan Natives. This is not an admission that I ever said these things, because I don't remember most of the events of that afternoon. Nevertheless, the situation disheartens me greatly. If I did say these things, including the charge that I claimed to have

weapons, none of it was true then or ever. One thing is for sure, I had no weapons and I believe I was calling for help.

I have never had any desire to shoot anyone and certainly not Alaskan Native people. I have nothing but respect for Alaskan Natives. If I made these threatening statements, I did not mean them and if I could take them back, I would. I know that words like what was attributed to me are hurtful, divisive and scary. That was never my intent but I know my intentions are not enough. I cannot change the past but I can only try to do better in the future and that includes doing what I can to remedy the feelings of my Native Alaskan neighbors and friends. I am not sure what I can do, but am open to suggestions. Please feel free to contact me to let me know what I can do to make amends.

Eventually I will sit in a court room and, if it is proven that I said these ugly, threatening things, I am deeply sorry. They do not reflect my true feelings or the feelings of anyone involved in my life or business. Out of respect to all Alaskan Native people I have removed myself from all ownership in the business and will stay out pending the outcome in the courts.

I humbly ask for forgiveness of all those offended by my actions and statements. Please try not to judge me or my family by what the news reports. Judge by listening to people that know me, know my family and by my 50+ years as an Alaskan. My apology is sincere, and I seek to move forward from this regrettable and painful incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Holman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Holman

Posted to Website on 6/12/22.