

Alaska Digest



COMMUNITY

EKLUTNA

Population: 383 (2004)

Location: At the head of Cook Inlet's Knik Arm, 25 miles northeast of Anchorage and within Anchorage.

Description: Both an Athabascan village with a community that is little more than 13 percent members of the Eklutna Village. The majority in Anchorage, with incomes averaging \$31,600 U.S. Census. Eklutna's Dena'ina residents have \$19,494 per capita. Eklutna Cemetery, dated 1980s; it consists of a small number of Russian Orthodox churches and the cemetery.

Source: Alaska Dept. of
www

spokeswoman for the governor.
— *Anchorage Daily News*

ANCHORAGE

City settles suit with pair arrested at Sullivan

The Municipality of Anchorage has settled a lawsuit with two local activists who claimed their civil rights were violated three years ago when they were arrested for trespassing as they distributed electioneering pamphlets outside city-owned Sullivan Arena, where an event was taking place.

Under the settlement, Uwe Kalenka, a property manager, will receive \$50,000, and Karen Bretz, a lawyer, \$25,000 for an April 2003 incident in which they were arrested while handing

out fliers promoting Kalenka's candidacy for a seat on the board of directors for Chugach Electric Association.

In a letter to Kalenka dated March 20, municipal attorney Fred Boness said the city regretted "the events that gave rise to this legal action" and in the future would respect the First Amendment rights of those soliciting signatures and distributing materials outside the Sullivan and other public property.

Of the settlement amount, \$70,000 comes from insurance companies that cover the other defendants in the suit, who include the show's promoter and Anchorage police, Boness said in an interview Wednesday. The rest comes from city coffers, he said.

The city had defended the

arrests, saying it had leased the arena to a private promoter. That essentially turned the Sullivan into private property for the event, negating the First Amendment rights of Kalenka and Bretz.

But in November 2004, a judge dismissed the charges against them, saying arena security and Anchorage police had indeed violated their free speech rights. The city appealed but in July 2005 dropped its appeal after Kalenka and Bretz filed a civil lawsuit.

Kalenka has said he was injured by the abusive treatment he received from police officers, but the city has not acknowledged that nor apologized for the arrests.

Wednesday he said he would have forfeited the settlement compensation if the city would

have prosecuted the arresting officers and issued a public apology.

Boness said the city settled the suit on practical economic grounds and would not issue an apology.