

**South Addition Community Council Resolution in Support of the Anchorage Assembly
Confirmation of the Municipality of Anchorage Chief Medical Officer
Resolution 22-01**

January 27, 2022

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Constitution, drafted, passed and ratified with historic knowledge of pandemics, provides that one of the core responsibilities of State Government is to provide for the public health; and

WHEREAS, State Statutes provide home rule municipalities with the authority and responsibility to provide for the public health; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage, under its home rule authority, has the authority and responsibility to act on behalf of the people in its community to protect the public health, a profound, solemn and continuing responsibility during the COVID pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's largest hospital has been operating under crisis standards of care due to excessive COVID 19 hospitalizations since September 14th (approx. 4 weeks prior to Assembly meeting which gave rise to concerns about the CMO's objectivity and fitness for the role); and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced crisis standards of care statewide due to excessive COVID hospitalization on September 22nd (approximately 3 weeks prior to the Assembly meeting which gave rise to concerns about the CMO's objectivity and fitness for the role); and

WHEREAS, the current unconfirmed municipal Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has received an unprecedented rebuke by experienced professional leaders in the local medical community concerning misleading statements the CMO has made on the public record regarding the pandemic and public health best practices to address the pandemic, raising concerns about the CMO's objectivity and fitness for the role (ADN, Thursday, October 14th, article citing the letter from the Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, and updated to include a response from the CMO, Friday, October 15th); and

WHEREAS, in the week following the CMO's misleading statements, the weekly health report from the State of Alaska reported ***"intense community transmission is continuing to occur and is causing significant illness, death and demand on the health system"*** (ADN, Sunday, October 24, 2021, p. 1); and

WHEREAS, in the week following the CMO's misleading statements, experienced Alaskan medical professionals continued to express grave concerns about the current high level of COVID cases and community transmission which can:

- lead to more serious mutations in the future beyond the current delta variant (ADN, Sunday, October 24, 2021, p. A5, Janet Johnston, former Anchorage Health Department epidemiologist)
- lead to high levels of hospitalizations and deaths; "it's not a surprise that the state had so many deaths...*hospitalizations can lead for weeks after someone gets sick and deaths can lag a month or two*"; "September was a bad month,

and unfortunately, I think people can expect the next couple of months are going to have pretty high death numbers compared to what we are used to” (ADN, Sunday, October 24, 2021, p. A5, Dr. Benjamin Wesley)

- continue to feed current and future surges; “Even assuming that some of the unvaccinated people now have natural immunity from the recent surge, there are still enough people without immunity to continue the current surge or create another one if people don’t take action to stop the spread” (ADN, Sunday, October 24, 2021, p. A5, Dr. Tom Hennessy); and

WHEREAS, in the two weeks following the CMO’s misleading statements, Alaska’s 7-day average **hospitalization rate has increased by 16%** over the past 14 days, is 6th highest in the U.S., (Monday, October 25 extract, New York Times, COVID State Trends, Daily Average Hospitalizations, per 100,000 last 7 days); and

WHEREAS, in the two weeks following the CMO’s misleading statements, Alaska’s 7-day average **COVID death rate** per 100,000 grew to 1.58, second only to Wyoming in the U.S. (Monday, October 25 extract, New York Times, COVID State Trends, Daily Average Deaths, per 100,000 last 7 days) and is likely to increase in the near term due to the increasing hospitalization rate; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Addition Community Council supports the Municipality of Anchorage elected officials exercising their authority to seek changes to Municipal law and elevate the position of the Municipality of Anchorage Chief Medical Officer to a position requiring the confirmation of the Assembly to ensure the position is filled by an experienced, qualified professional who can sustain their objectivity and the trust of local medical professionals as well as the trust and confidence of the community.

PASSED Ayes 21 , Nays 0 , Abstentions 0 .

John Thurber, SACC President

Patrice Parker, SACC Secretary