

Assembly Member

Felix Rivera

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Dear Anchorage Assembly,

As required in AR 2023-152, As Amended, I am providing this report via email to inform you of the work to address short-term remediation needs at the Forest Park Mobile Home Park. Specifically, the resolution required:

"In no later than 30 days, the Housing and Homelessness Committee shall provide a report via email to the Assembly identifying feasible short-term remediation options and making specific recommendations as to their implementation."

The resolution defined short-term remediation options as followed: "Short-term remediation options including, but not limited to, independent water tanks and composting or other self-contained toilets per unit."

At the Assembly's Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting, there was an initial discussion regarding this issue. You can find a recording of that discussion here (starting at the 1:05:00 time stamp): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5qT1O3vP_c

After this committee meeting, Assembly Members Cross, Myers, and myself met with members of the administration, including Municipal Manager Kohlhase, Assistant Municipal Attorney Bowman, AHD staff, and Building Safety staff.

Short-term remediation recommendations were split into two areas: 1) septic system needs and 2) potable water needs. The below recommendations were agreed upon by this group addressing both of the areas described.

Septic System Needs:

It was determined that there is a need to have a third-party engineer determine the scope of the septic issues at Forest Park. Based on anecdotal evidence, it appears that the septic system is functioning and toilets are flushing in the trailers. It also appears that there are breaks in the piping possibly at the end of the line and/or in between the trailers that may be causing sewage to become daylighted.

Recommendation: It was determined that the Municipality should not pay for this third-part review. Assembly Member Cross committed to discussing this issue with the landowners to determine whether this is a cost they could take on or not.

Potable Water Needs:

Currently, residents are getting water from the church across the street or are finding other

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sources. For long-term use, the water from the church well cannot be piped to trailers and accommodate more than 24 individuals without triggering state and federal regulations. Several suggestions were discussed, including 1) having a Municipal filling station on site, 2) continue to use the Municipal filling station at the fire station, which is 10 miles away and the availability of this filling station appears to be inconsistent, and 3) having the residents pay to obtain water directly from the church well and avoiding piping water to trailers altogether.

Recommendation: If the church is amenable, the preferred option is to have residents pay to obtain water directly from the church well. Assembly Member Cross will discuss this possibility with the church. If this preferred option is untenable for the church, the secondary recommendation is to see if federal HUD funds, either CDBG or CDBG-DR, could be used to pay for a Municipal filling station on site. Of note, this short-term remediation option regarding potable water cannot become a long-term solution. There must be an end date, which is to be determined.

If you have questions about this report, please send them either to Assembly Member Cross or myself.

Thank you,

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