

Dear Media,

The Anchorage Health Department is protecting lives and getting the most vulnerable of our community out of the extreme cold with a fully functioning warming center located at the Sullivan Arena. On Friday night, 48 clients chose to seek shelter in the warmth with 18 individuals arriving after 3:00 p.m. This is very significant as numbers are counted over the course of 24 hours from midnight to midnight. Hot drinks and meals are also provided at the warming center.

“Collaborations with vendors and an AHD team effort went into ensuring a safe and tactical structure in order to protect our neighbors and community members experiencing homelessness”, according to AHD Director Joe Gerace.

He continued, “It is AHD’s hope that our colleagues will help spread the word of this resource to make sure that even more people are protected in the extreme temperatures. I’d also like to thank Mayor Dave Bronson for providing the resources and David D’Amato for his swift and steady leadership in setting up this operation.”

AHD would also like to remind residents of the Municipality of Anchorage that frostbite and hypothermia can cause serious medical conditions and complications. If left untreated, they can lead to injury and death.