

Submitted by: Assembly Member Rivera
Prepared by: Sanctioned Camp Community
Task Force
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: June 6, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-188(S)

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING**
2 **A PLAN FOR SANCTIONED CAMPS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF**
3 **ANCHORAGE**
4

5
6 **WHEREAS**, sanitary, secure and humane resting space is necessary for a person
7 to lead a healthy, productive life; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, lack of resting space incurs a great cost upon both the individuals
10 involved and society at large; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, AMC 25.70.040A.1. prohibits camping on municipal land and AMC
13 8.45.010 prohibits trespass on both public and private land, which creates a situation
14 where there is no legal place for individuals to sleep outdoors overnight with or
15 without a tent or bedding, or during a full 24-hour period; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality does not currently fund or maintain a permanent,
18 general-population emergency shelter following the closure of the Sullivan Area on
19 May 1, 2023, and will no longer maintain an emergency shelter for the remaining 90
20 individuals with complex needs as of May 31, 2023; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, people can become unhoused because they experience a combination
23 of addiction, mental illness and poverty; or due to a work-related or other serious
24 accident, inability to pay a medical or vehicle expense, job loss, divorce or
25 separation; loss of supportive family or friends, or other life circumstances; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, unhoused people in Anchorage, by necessity because of lack of
28 adequate housing or shelter space, are currently finding somewhere to live in our
29 green spaces, parks, open spaces and undeveloped parcels; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, living unsheltered in Anchorage's challenging climate and
32 environmental conditions throughout the year has a profoundly negative social,
33 environmental, public health and community impact; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, sanitary, secure and humane supported shelter areas significantly
36 reduce these impacts; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, living unsheltered requires a person to enter survival mode,
39 dramatically restricts a person's ability to meet their physical and mental needs, gain
40 employment or attain the personal identification needed to access existing services;
41 and
42

1 **WHEREAS**, when previously unhoused people have sanitary, secure and humane
2 sanctioned shelter, with structure and support, they have the energy and time to
3 access services and move their lives forward; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize that the population experiencing
6 homelessness has a diversity of needs, including mental health and substance
7 misuse needs, and as much as possible those needs should be considered during
8 the planning of sanctioned camps, emergency shelter, and other services; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, sanctioned camps are an imperfect solution and should be seen as a
11 pathway to housing and other needed supports, yet are far preferable to the
12 unsanctioned, unsanitary, and environmentally-damaging encampments now
13 impacting green spaces and neighborhoods throughout the Municipality; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, sanctioned camps are not classified as shelter and will have no impact
16 on decisions made by the Municipality on abatement; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, although the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force has not
19 completed its work, the task force, in order to get the various necessary Municipal
20 processes moving forward, put forward the below immediate needs
21 recommendations, with a final report due on July 6 which will provide additional
22 planning information to support these efforts.
23

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**
25

26 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly supports relying on AMC subsection
27 25.70.040A.1. to designate areas that allow Municipally sanctioned camps at some
28 or all the Municipally owned locations listed in the sections below based on
29 feasibility. The Assembly calls on the Administration and managing agencies of
30 municipal land to designate areas for sanctioned camping consistent with this
31 resolution. ~~[In addition, the Anchorage Assembly supports requesting the
32 landowners of the privately owned locations listed in the sections below
33 consider the feasibility of setting up sanctioned camps on their property, if
34 legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.]~~
35

36 **Section 2.** The Anchorage Assembly requests all community councils to provide us
37 with their preferred location for 1) a sanctioned camp site and/or 2) emergency
38 shelter by July 15.
39

40 **Section 3.** The Municipality shall ensure that as much as practical and feasible,
41 whether through community assistance or direct funding, the following services for
42 individuals at the locations listed in the sections below are available:

- 43 • regular clinical and support services as determined by need of the
- 44 population staying at each camp
- 45 • potable water
- 46 • sanitation
- 47 • harm reduction, to include sharps containers and Narcan
- 48 • electricity

- 1 • food
- 2 • gathering space
- 3 • accessible by all providers, i.e. an open campus
- 4 • security, to include adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife
- 5 and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry
- 6 and exit points
- 7 • action and mitigation oriented good neighbor agreement between
- 8 providers and nearby community councils
- 9 • raised tree canopies of 6 to 8 feet for any wooded campsites
- 10 • Wi-fi or other internet accessibility
- 11 • Structural support for tents, to include wooden pallets or other
- 12 platforms to allow tents to be off the ground and adequate rain
- 13 protection
- 14 • fire suppression devices will be available on each camp site
- 15 • animal deterrents will be available on each camp site
- 16 • Mitigation of off-site impacts
- 17 • As appropriate, a women's, families with children, or other vulnerable
- 18 populations only designated area should be considered

19 **Section 4.** The Anchorage Assembly calls on the Administration to request **up to**
20 **6[9]** Anchorage School District relocatable or portable buildings to be used as
21 described in the sections below and to bring forward an Assembly Resolution for
22 consideration to allow for the Municipality to accept these assets. In addition, we
23 request the Municipal administration to complete a structural review of these
24 facilities to determine their condition and choose **up to 6[9]** most ready for habitation
25 and usage. Finally, we request the Administration bring forward an ordinance to
26 allow these structures to be used as outlined in the sections below.

27
28 **Section 5.** The Anchorage Assembly calls on the Administration to bring forward an
29 appropriation document for consideration to acquire up to 90 Pallet Shelters as a
30 sole source purchase from Pallet.

31
32 **Section 6.** The Anchorage Assembly calls on the Administration to request Habitat
33 for Humanity, the State Department of Corrections, and any other interested parties
34 to construct tiny homes to be used as described in the sections below and to bring
35 forward an Assembly Resolution for consideration to allow for the Municipality to
36 accept these assets. In addition, we request the Administration bring forward an
37 ordinance to, specific only to tiny homes within sanctioned camp sites, temporarily
38 waive any Title 21, Land Use, and Title 23, Building Safety, requirements which
39 would hinder the usage of these structures and which waiver would not subject its
40 occupants to unreasonable risk to life and safety.

41
42 **Section 7.** The Anchorage Assembly requests support from community members,
43 advocacy and civic groups, non-profit and philanthropic organizations, and for-profit
44 businesses to reduce the burden of the Municipality so we may prioritize our limited
45 resources on both the 2023-2024 Emergency Cold Weather Winter Plan and
46 standing up a new permanent year-round low-barrier shelter as outlined in AR 2023-
47 97, As Amended, a resolution adopting the Clean Slate Strategy.

1 **Section 8.** The Anchorage Assembly respectfully requests private landowners with
2 large vacant or unused parking lots to consider sponsoring a sanctioned camp site,
3 if legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.
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5 **Section 9.** The Anchorage Assembly requests the Administration put out a quick-
6 turnaround RFP or waive Title 7 requirements to solicit providers/operators for
7 sanctioned camps. No more than two sanctioned camp locations should be
8 managed by a single provider.
9

10 **Section 10.** In Assembly District 5, East Anchorage, the Municipality supports
11 usage of Centennial Park Campground as a sanctioned camp under the following
12 parameters:

- 13 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 14 • Start date of **June 19[May 31]**, 2023
- 15 • Closure date of September 4, 2023, which is the traditional closure
16 date of the campground
- 17 • Tents should be limited only to established campsites
- 18 • Serve a single adult population
- 19 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports to begin and
20 transition to an intentional camp
- 21 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or
22 as office space
23

24 **Section 11.** In Assembly District 6, South Anchorage, the Municipality supports
25 usage of 1805 Academy as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 26 • 20 to 40 individuals
- 27 • Start date of **June 19[May 31]**, 2023
- 28 • Year-round operation or until such time as the building can no
29 longer be occupied
- 30 • Serve as a transition for individuals currently staying at the Sullivan
31 Arena who do not have a plan come May 31, 2023
- 32 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports
- 33 • Make use of 10 of the rooms in the building for habitation
- 34 • Up to 2 ASD relocatable buildings placed on site to be used for
35 habitation or for service providers
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37 **Section 12.** In Assembly District 3, West Anchorage, the Municipality supports
38 usage of the land around the Clitheroe Center as a sanctioned camp under the
39 following parameters:

- 40 • 30 to 40 individuals
- 41 • Start date of **June 19[May 31]**, 2023
- 42 • Closure date of September 1, 2024
- 43 • Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in the
44 parking lot or in tents on land around the facility
- 45 • Building should not be used for habitation
- 46 • Serve a single adult population
- 47 • Run as a dry, or non-substance use, location
- 48 • Plan for transportation needs considering the distance of this
49 location

- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space

Section 13. In Assembly District 4, Midtown Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the vacant land at 40th Ave and Denali, the former National Archives site, as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 50 to 75 individuals
- Start date of **June 19**~~[May 31]~~, 2023
- Closure date of September 1, 2024
- Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in a designated space or in tents, and transition to Pallet Shelters and tiny homes
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a low barrier location
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space

Section 14. In Assembly District 1, North Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the vacant land that was formerly Viking Drive from Reeve Blvd to Commercial Drive as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 50 to 75 individuals
- Start date of **June 19**~~[May 31]~~, 2023
- Closure date of August 1, 2023
- Tents only
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a low barrier location
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site, if feasible, for service providers or as office space

Section 15. The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration reach out to private landowners who have large plots of vacant land within the Municipality to determine their interest in setting up a sanctioned camp. ~~[THE MUNICIPALITY: 1) SUPPORTS REQUESTING COOK INLET REGION, INC. (GIRI) CONSIDER THE LAND AT C ST AND 100TH AVE AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 3, WEST ANCHORAGE, 2) SUPPORTS REQUESTING PACIFIC NORTHERN ACADEMY CONSIDER THE USAGE OF THE LAND AROUND THE FORMER ALASKA NATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL AT 550 BRAGAW AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1, NORTH ANCHORAGE, AND 3) SUPPORTS REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA CONSIDER THE USAGE OF THE EAGLE RIVER CAMPGROUND AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2, EAGLE RIVER / CHUGIAK.]~~

Section 16. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2023.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk