

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2024-37, As Amended

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AND THE**
2 **MAYOR JOINTLY REQUESTING FOUR MILLION DOLLARS OF THE ALASKA**
3 **STATE LEGISLATURE FOR CONTINUED LOW BARRIER, YEAR ROUND**
4 **SHELTER OPERATIONS.**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage recognizes the pressing need for year-
7 round low-barrier shelter services to address homelessness in our community; and

8
9 **WHEREAS, the Municipality also recognizes that the solution to**
10 **homelessness is increasing available housing in the community, as well as**
11 **increasing access to services for people who need additional supports such**
12 **as treatment, behavioral health services, vocational rehabilitation and**
13 **training, and workforce development opportunities, in order to become**
14 **independent in the long term; and**

15
16 **WHEREAS, the Municipality continues to pursue strategies to increase**
17 **housing production, reduce costs of development, improve housing**
18 **attainability and affordability, prevent people from entering homelessness,**
19 **and other work to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness,**
20 **but these efforts take time to produce results, and there will continue to be a**
21 **need for emergency shelter; and**

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the former Solid Waste Services Administration Building at 1111 E 56th
24 Avenue in Midtown Anchorage ("E. 56 Ave. Shelter") has been identified as a
25 suitable location for emergency cold weather shelter and was activated on October
26 10, 2023 and is currently slated to run until April 30, 2024; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, through an agreement with Solid Waste Services, the building the E.
29 56th Ave. Shelter is located in, is available for this use until Summer 2026 or later;
30 and

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32 **WHEREAS**, the current operating~~ion~~ **contract** from October 15-April 30 **is**
33 **projected to** cost[s] nearly ~~[\$4.1]~~ **\$3.94** Million dollars and is currently funded by
34 alcohol tax, **re-appropriated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds,** and
35 **[some]** general government funds; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, the E. 56th Ave. Shelter is available to be used as a year-round low-
38 barrier shelter and based on the shelter location criteria of the Municipality has been
39 identified as a suitable location to offer year-round low-barrier shelter; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, operating the E. 56th Ave. Shelter on a year-round basis would also
42 follow the Municipality's policy of not concentrating services for people experiencing
43 homelessness in one part of town; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the E. 56th Ave. Shelter has demonstrated success during emergency
3 cold weather season in providing housing-focused services, maintaining a well-run
4 and well-staffed environment, and minimizing impacts on surrounding
5 neighborhoods; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the shelter's current maximum capacity[, ~~ranging between 150-200~~
8 of 200 clients, aligns with the Municipality's goal to offer effective and manageable
9 support to those in need while maintaining a housing focused approach to rapidly
10 move clients from shelter to housing with supports; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality acknowledges the importance of securing funding to
13 sustain and enhance the operations of this vital shelter year round; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the costs associated with running the E. 56th Ave. Shelter from May 1
16 until October 15 are nearly [~~\$3.5~~ \$3.6 million dollars for operations, bringing the
17 annual cost to run this facility to [~~\$7.6~~ \$7.3 million

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19 **NOW THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR RESOLVE:**

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21 **Section 1:** The Anchorage Assembly and Mayor jointly request \$4 million in funding
22 from the Alaska State Legislature for Fiscal Year [~~the fiscal year~~] 2025 to support
23 the emergency shelter [~~housing focused~~] operations of the year-round low-
24 barrier shelter at the former Solid Waste Services Administration Building located at
25 1111 E 56th Avenue in Midtown Anchorage [~~for 6 months~~] during the summer
26 season, to match the Municipality's [~~6-month~~] funding commitment for [~~of~~]
27 emergency cold weather shelter operations.

28
29 [~~Section 2: The E. 56th Ave. Shelter has proven to be a successful model with~~
30 ~~minimal impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The Municipality believes that the~~
31 ~~shelter's strategic location and manageable size contribute to its effectiveness in~~
32 ~~addressing homelessness in our community and is necessary to maintain year~~
33 ~~round.]~~

34
35 **Section 2[3]:** The Municipality commits to appropriating a 100% operating
36 funding match for [~~with~~] the requested \$4 million from the Alaska State Legislature
37 to further demonstrate its dedication to the success and sustainability of year-round
38 operations of the E. 56th Ave. Shelter.

39
40 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Anchorage Assembly this 23rd day of January,
41 2024.

42
43 *Christopher Constant*

44
45 ATTEST:

Chair

46
47
48 *Jenifer King*

49
50 Municipal Clerk