A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE
ABANDONED PROPERTY PROJECT AND FEDERAL FUNDING REQUEST TO
REVITALIZE ABANDONED PROPERTIES INTO ATTAINABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, vacant and abandoned properties in a community have significant
costs to the community, the local government and the public at large: not only do
abandoned properties represent housing units that remain unoccupied and are not
in productive use, but also become public nuisances, attractors for trespassing and
other illegal activities, and have significant negative safety impacts on surrounding
properties and neighborhoods, as well as requiring significant law enforcement and
code enforcement resources to address these negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, as of February 2024, there are currently 172 vacant and abandoned
properties within the Municipality of Anchorage and identified by the Municipality’s
Code Enforcement team; and

WHEREAS, the Abandoned Property Project (the Project) is an effort undertaken
by the Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA), Anchorage Water
and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), and departments within the Municipality of
Anchorage Office of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Project aims to identify and revitalize up to 172 abandoned
properties within the Municipality of Anchorage on the city’s vacant and abandoned
properties list, transforming these neglected spaces into attainable housing, in order
to address the critical needs for obtainable and workforce housing, reducing the high
costs associated with building and infrastructure, and promoting community and
economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Project aligns with the Municipality of Anchorage’s goals for
sustainable urban development and increased attainable housing stock; and

WHEREAS, the Project further aligns with the Anchorage Assembly’s Housing
Action Plan, adopted December 19, 2023, corresponding with the following policies:
Goal 3 Increase the share of resident-occupied housing throughout the year and
reduce the number of vacant units; Strategy 2 Encourage Reuse and
Redevelopment; Action B-3 Focus investment on re-use of vacant and abandoned
nuisance properties identified by the Municipality; and Action D-1 Continue
investments in vacant and abandoned properties for housing; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has already begun making investments in revitalizing
vacant and abandoned properties, including a $1.3 million appropriation of local
alcohol tax funding toward purchase and rehabilitation of existing housing units on
the vacant and abandoned property list; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes the importance of the Abandoned Property Project in addressing critical housing needs, revitalizing neighborhoods, and promoting the well-being of the Anchorage community;

WHEREAS, the success of the Project is contingent upon support and collaboration between multiple local government entities, community stakeholders, and securing federal funding, which will require joint advocacy by the above-named agencies and other partners to Alaska’s Congressional Delegation;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly hereby expresses its strong support for the Abandoned Property Project, which is aligned with the Municipality’s policy goals and potential to improve availability of attainable housing in the community.

Section 2. The Assembly urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation and relevant federal agencies to support a Forty-Five Million dollar ($45,000,000) funding request for the Abandoned Property Project, as a local program with significant potential to benefit the residents and neighborhood communities of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 5th day of March, 2024.

Christopher Constant
Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk
From: Assembly Member Brawley

Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE ABANDONED PROPERTY PROJECT AND FEDERAL FUNDING REQUEST TO REVITALIZE ABANDONED PROPERTIES INTO ATTAINABLE HOUSING

Below is a summary of the Abandoned Properties Project, prepared by Mike Robbins, Executive Director, Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA):

Anchorage Abandoned Property Redevelopment Initiative

Project Summary
The Municipality of Anchorage is tackling a critical housing shortage through the innovative Abandoned Property Redevelopment Initiative, championed by the Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA) in collaboration with Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), and departments within the Municipality of Anchorage Office of Community and Economic Development.

Objective
The initiative aims to revitalize vacant and abandoned properties into vibrant, habitable spaces, bolstering the local workforce and addressing the decade-long outmigration trend.

Approach
A strategic funding mix will enable the project to identify, purchase, clear, and prepare identified sites, selling them to developers to construct attainable housing. Executing this strategy will create a perpetual self-depleting fund as proceeds from the sale of the property are reused. This aligns with the municipality's priorities of sustainable urban development and increased attainable housing stock.

Federal Support Requested
The project seeks to apply for an EDA grant for completing a comprehensive business plan and citywide census to ascertain the exact number of abandoned properties, further informing our revitalization strategy. The business plan will support a request from our delegation in DC to provide $45 million in funding to begin and maintain this project.

Projected Community Impact
The redevelopment project will create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and revive neighborhoods, reducing the number of unoccupied homes and leveraging them as assets for community upliftment.
Alignment with Municipal and EDA Priorities

This project is in lockstep with municipal goals and the Anchorage Assembly Housing Action Plan, seeking to increase housing density and utilize vacant spaces effectively. It also resonates with EDA priorities by fostering equity, resilience, workforce development, and environmentally sustainable development.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Over five years, up to 250 redeveloped properties made ready for infill construction.
- Enhanced property values and neighborhood safety.
- A strengthened and diversified local workforce.
- A perpetuating fund to sustain ongoing redevelopment.

Call for Support

The support of the Anchorage Assembly for this project is critical. We urge federal agencies and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support this transformative project, aligning with the Assembly's Housing Action Plan and the broader vision for Anchorage's sustainable development.

I request your support for the resolution.

Reviewed by: Legislative Services Staff

Respectfully submitted: Anna Brawley, Assembly Member
District 3, West Anchorage