

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2024-91, As Amended

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE**
2 **ABANDONED PROPERTY PROJECT AND FEDERAL FUNDING REQUEST TO**
3 **REVITALIZE ABANDONED PROPERTIES INTO ATTAINABLE HOUSING**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, vacant and abandoned properties in a community have significant
6 costs to the community, the local government and the public at large: not only do
7 abandoned properties represent housing units that remain unoccupied and are not
8 in productive use, but also become public nuisances, attractors for trespassing and
9 other illegal activities, and have significant negative safety impacts on surrounding
10 properties and neighborhoods, as well as requiring significant law enforcement and
11 code enforcement resources to address these negative impacts; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, as of February 2024, there are currently 172 vacant and abandoned
14 properties within the Municipality of Anchorage and identified by the Municipality's
15 Code Enforcement team; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Abandoned Property Project (the Project) is an effort undertaken
18 by the Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA), Anchorage Water
19 and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), and departments within the Municipality of
20 Anchorage Office of Community and Economic Development; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Project aims to identify and revitalize up to 172 abandoned
23 properties within the Municipality of Anchorage on the city's vacant and abandoned
24 properties list, transforming these neglected spaces into attainable housing, in order
25 to address the critical needs for obtainable and workforce housing, reducing the high
26 costs associated with building and infrastructure, and promoting community and
27 economic development; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Project aligns with the Municipality of Anchorage's goals for
30 sustainable urban development and increased attainable housing stock; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the Project further aligns with the Anchorage Assembly's Housing
33 Action Plan, adopted December 19, 2023, corresponding with the following policies:
34 Goal 3 Increase the share of resident-occupied housing throughout the year and
35 reduce the number of vacant units; Strategy 2 Encourage Reuse and
36 Redevelopment; Action B-3 Focus investment on re-use of vacant and abandoned
37 nuisance properties identified by the Municipality; and Action D-1 Continue
38 investments in vacant and abandoned properties for housing; and
39

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

1 the vacant and abandoned property list; and

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes the importance of the Abandoned
4 Property Project in addressing critical housing needs, revitalizing neighborhoods,
5 and promoting the well-being of the Anchorage community;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the success of the Project is contingent upon support and collaboration
8 between multiple local government entities, community stakeholders, and securing
9 federal funding, which will require joint advocacy by the above-named agencies and
10 other partners to Alaska’s Congressional Delegation;

11
12 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

13
14 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly hereby expresses its strong support for the
15 Abandoned Property Project, which is aligned with the Municipality’s policy goals
16 and potential to improve availability of attainable housing in the community.

17
18 **Section 2.** The Assembly urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation and
19 relevant federal agencies to support **a Forty-Five Million dollar**
20 **(\$45,000,000)[this]** funding request for the Abandoned Property Project, as a local
21 program with significant potential to benefit the residents and neighborhood
22 communities of the Municipality of Anchorage.

23
24 **Section 3.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and
25 approval by the Assembly.

26
27
28 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 5th day of March,
29 2024.

30
31 *Christopher Constant*

32 _____
33 Chair

34 ATTEST:

35
36 *Jamie King*

37 _____
38 Municipal Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 234-2024

Meeting Date: March 5, 2024

1 **From: Assembly Member Brawley**

2
3 **Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT**
4 **OF THE ABANDONED PROPERTY PROJECT AND FEDERAL**
5 **FUNDING REQUEST TO REVITALIZE ABANDONED PROPERTIES**
6 **INTO ATTAINABLE HOUSING**
7

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

10 **Anchorage Abandoned Property Redevelopment Initiative**

11 *Project Summary*

12
13 The Municipality of Anchorage is tackling a critical housing shortage through the
14 innovative Abandoned Property Redevelopment Initiative, championed by the
15 Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA) in collaboration with
16 Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), and departments within the
17 Municipality of Anchorage Office of Community and Economic Development.
18

19 *Objective*

20
21 The initiative aims to revitalize vacant and abandoned properties into vibrant,
22 habitable spaces, bolstering the local workforce and addressing the decade-long
23 outmigration trend.
24

25 *Approach*

26 A strategic funding mix will enable the project to identify, purchase, clear, and
27 prepare identified sites, selling them to developers to construct attainable housing.
28 Executing this strategy will create a perpetual self-depleting fund as proceeds from
29 the sale of the property are reused. This aligns with the municipality's priorities of
30 sustainable urban development and increased attainable housing stock.
31

32 *Federal Support Requested*

33 The project seeks to apply for an EDA grant for completing a comprehensive
34 business plan and citywide census to ascertain the exact number of abandoned
35 properties, further informing our revitalization strategy. The business plan will
36 support a request from our delegation in DC to provide \$45 million in funding to
37 begin and maintain this project.
38

39 *Projected Community Impact*

40 The redevelopment project will create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and revive
41 neighborhoods, reducing the number of unoccupied homes and leveraging them as
42 assets for community upliftment.
43

1 *Alignment with Municipal and EDA Priorities*

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

6
7 *Anticipated Outcomes*

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

13
14 *Call for Support*

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

19
20
21 **I request your support for the resolution.**

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23 Reviewed by: Legislative Services Staff

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