

Submitted by: Assembly Member Volland
Assembly Member Silvers
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: _____, 2025

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2025-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND CURRENT EXPANDED SHELTER CAPACITY OF 200 INDIVIDUALS AT THE CONGREGATE SHELTER LOCATED AT 1111 E. 56TH AVENUE AND AFFIRMING THE MUNICIPALITY'S ROLE IN ENSURING ADEQUATE EMERGENCY SHELTER.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly adopted AR 2018-167, As Amended, declaring as public policy the dispersed placement throughout the Anchorage Bowl of programs providing emergency overnight shelter and related services for persons experiencing homelessness, in order to reduce over-concentration in any one neighborhood and to support community revitalization goals; and

WHEREAS, following the wind-down of the Sullivan Arena mass emergency shelter that operated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Municipality opened a congregate, low-barrier emergency shelter at 1111 E. 56th Avenue in the fall of 2023 in the former Solid Waste Services administration building to help prevent a cold-weather emergency capacity shortfall, and which was intended to be temporary and eventually returned to SWS; and

WHEREAS, the shelter (commonly known as the 56th Avenue Shelter or Midtown Shelter) provides approximately two hundred (200) beds and has routinely operated at or near capacity on most nights, serving some of Anchorage's most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code subsection 16.120.020D. provides that emergency shelters shall be for no more than 150 clients at a single location, unless the Assembly approves expanding to greater capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly previously approved capacity expansion for the 56th Avenue Shelter from 150 persons to 200 on three occasions by AR 2023-391, As Corrected, AR 2024-162, As Amended, and AR 2025-128, with the current approval expiring on October 15, 2025, unless otherwise extended by the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the facility offers critical low-barrier services including basic onsite medical care, behavioral health support, case management, limited pet accommodation, transportation links to the Third Avenue Resource & Navigation Center, and connections to housing and wraparound services; and

WHEREAS, a grant from the State of Alaska, together with Municipal funds, enabled the Municipality to continue operating the 56th Avenue Shelter through 2024 and

1 into 2025; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, at the Assembly's Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting
4 July 16, 2025 the Anchorage Health Department reported the intent to recommend
5 awarding a contract for congregate shelter operations at the 56th Avenue Shelter
6 location through the end of the year, and reducing the capacity to 100 persons while
7 contemporaneously recommending award for a contract for congregate shelter
8 services and operations at a second location providing 100 beds, a net zero shelter
9 bed capacity outcome; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly's Focus on Homelessness initiative and the community's
12 Anchored Home Plan (launched 2018; updated 2024) identify ensuring adequate,
13 safe, low-barrier emergency shelter capacity as a core Municipal responsibility
14 integral to protecting public health and safety and to making homelessness rare,
15 brief, and one-time; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the annual Point in Time count data for January 27, 2025, shows 402
18 persons unsheltered that day while the permanent and seasonal available shelter
19 bed capacities utilization at 86% and 95% respectively; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness data dashboard as of
22 June 30, 2025, reports 600 unsheltered individuals at the time while shelter beds
23 and transitional housing were 100% utilized; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, expanded shelter capacity is needed to decrease unsheltered
26 homelessness, mitigate risks to life and safety during cold weather, and help
27 individuals and families make progress toward long-term housing solutions; now,
28 therefore,

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30 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

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32 **Section 1. Policy Support for Maintaining Capacity.** It is the policy of the
33 Municipality of Anchorage to maintain, to the maximum extent feasible, not less than
34 the current emergency shelter bed capacity, expanded by AR 2025-128,
35 (approximately 200 low-barrier congregate shelter beds) presently available at the
36 56th Avenue Shelter.

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38 **Section 2. Lease Extension / Bridge Authority.** The Assembly expresses its
39 support for the Administration to negotiate, if necessary, lease extensions or use
40 agreements with Solid Waste Services to allow continued shelter operations,
41 subject to any required Assembly approvals.

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43 **Section 3. Coordination with Anchored Home.** Replacement shelter
44 procurement and operations shall align with the goals and strategies of the
45 Anchored Home Plan (as updated), including low-barrier access, housing-focused
46 case management, and supportive housing pathways.

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48 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and
49 approval by the Assembly.
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PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk