



# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

ASSEMBLY MEMBER FELIX RIVERA,  
CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY'S HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

# Agenda



Actions taken from July of 2022 to present which shape the current system



Sanctioned camp resolution

# Plan to Address the Humanitarian Crisis

AR 2022-221 (S), As Amended, approved on July 26, 2022

- \$500k to United Way to rehab 60 rental units
- \$1.217M to AHD to develop a written emergency shelter plan to present in August of 2022
- \$350k to Christian Health Associates for family emergency shelter services
- \$433k to BFS for adult emergency shelter services
- \$1.72M to ACEH for expanded outreach

AR 2022-222, approved on July 26, 2022

- \$3.4M in ARPA funds to complete purchase of Guest House

Precipitated by closure of Sullivan Arena, issues at Centennial Park, and need to get ahead of planning for emergency shelter

# Near-Term Housing Investments

- ▶ AR 2022-178(S), As Amended, passed on August 9, 2022
  - ▶ \$11.878M to Rasmuson Foundation, eventually went to the Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust
    - ▶ Purchase of the former Barratt Inn
    - ▶ Purchase of the former Lakeshore Inn

# Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan

- ▶ AR 2022-252, passed on August 17, 2022
  - ▶ Assembly authorizes creation of a task force to develop the emergency cold weather shelter plan in compliance with AMC 16.120
- ▶ AR 2022-313, As Amended, initially passed on September 25 and updated on October 3, 2022
  - ▶ Approving and updating the emergency cold weather shelter plan
    - ▶ BFS capacity increase of 20 individuals
    - ▶ Covenant House capacity increase of 25 individuals
    - ~~▶ Semi-congregate sheltering at Bean's Café of 40 individuals~~
    - ~~▶ Non-congregate use of the former Golden Lion as housing for 120 individuals~~
    - ▶ Non-congregate use of Aviator Hotel and Alex Hotel
    - ▶ Congregate sheltering at the Sullivan Arena of 150 individuals
- ▶ AR 2022-411, As Amended, passed on December 6, 2022
  - ▶ Increased capacity at the Sullivan Arena to 360

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**THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES**

**Section 1.** The Sullivan Arena shall close as emergency shelter no later than the expiration of the term of its current contract on April 30, 2023.

**Section 2.** The Assembly requests the Municipal Administration to put out a Request for Information to obtain possible locations for non-congregate shelter, prioritizing those individuals who are on the Coordinated Entry list.

**Section 3.** The Assembly requests the Municipal Administration prioritize resources to address code changes required to allow alternative forms of shelter within the Municipality, such as pallet shelters, modular buildings, ASD relocatable buildings, and others.

**Section 4.** The Assembly requests the Municipal Administration to engage in workforce development opportunities for people experiencing homelessness as much as possible when implementing the above sections.



# Hurry up and Demobilize



1 **Section 5.** The Assembly Housing and Homelessness Committee will work with the  
2 Administration to explore on an expedited basis the short-term (up to three years)  
3 usage of the former Alaska Native Charter School.

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5 **Section 6.** The Housing and Homelessness Committee will work with the Anchorage  
6 Coalition to End Homelessness to explore, on an expedited basis, funding for contact-  
7 driven and housing-driven outreach as well as mobile navigation services.

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9 **Section 7.** The Assembly will create a public task force through an Assembly  
0 Resolution to explore the possibility of sanctioned camps.

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2 **Section 8.** The Assembly will create a public task force, through an Assembly  
3 Resolution, to explore solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness with co-  
4 occurring disorders, including mental health, behavioral health and substance misuse.

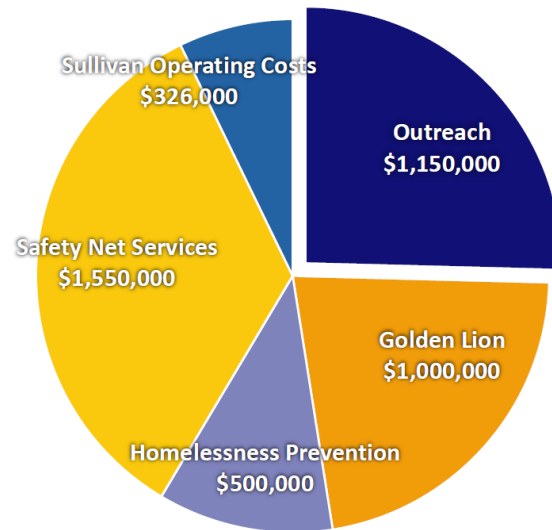
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6 **Section 9.** Food services should be considered and, as appropriate, funded in the  
7 options listed above.  
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# Hurry up and Demobilize

## SO, WHAT DID THE ASSEMBLY ACTUALLY FUND?

### FUNDED SAFETY NET SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Covenant House
- Brother Francis Shelter
- Complex Care
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Resource Center



### FUNDED OUTREACH TYPES

1. **Contact-driven** outreach to help provide basic needs
2. **Housing-driven** outreach to help people get ready to move into housing
3. **Mobility and medical needs** outreach to help provide alternatives for these populations
4. **Mobile navigation services** to help connect people with the services they need

# 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Revisions



# Recap

- ▶ Closure of mass care in June of 2022 causes a humanitarian crisis
- ▶ Assembly comes up with a plan to address this crisis, focusing on outreach, housing, and bolstering the safety net of basic services
- ▶ Assembly makes strategic investments in housing with ARPA funds
- ▶ Assembly forward-funds emergency cold weather shelter and creates a task force to come up with a plan for the 2022-2023 winter season
- ▶ Assembly approves the emergency cold weather shelter plan
- ▶ Assembly approves a demobilization plan of emergency cold weather shelter that takes an “all hands on deck” approach
- ▶ Assembly approves a variety of investments during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget revision process

# Weighing the Policy Decisions for this Summer

Planning Scenario A (no sanctioned camps):

- ▶ 700 unsheltered individuals
  - ▶ 203 units of housing coming online June and July

700 – 250: 450 individuals remaining in  
unsanctioned situation

Planning Scenario B (sanctioned camps at all  
locations at max capacity):

- ▶ 700 unsheltered individuals
  - ▶ 203 units of housing coming online June and July
  - ▶ 300 individuals staying in sanctioned camps

700 – 250 – 300: 150 individuals remaining in  
unsanctioned situation

# Larger Context for This Winter

Planning Scenario A (no sanctioned camps):

- ▶ 450 individuals unsheltered
  - ▶ 150 bed permanent year-round low-barrier shelter comes online by November 1

450 – 150: 300 unsheltered individuals we will need to plan for as we consider the 2023-2024 emergency cold weather shelter plan

Planning Scenario B (sanctioned camps at all locations at max capacity):

- ▶ 150 individuals unsheltered
  - ▶ 150 individuals who will have to leave a sanctioned camp once it closes
  - ▶ 150 bed permanent year-round low-barrier shelter comes online by November 1

150 + 150 – 150: 150 unsheltered individuals we will need to plan for as we consider the 2023-2024 emergency cold weather shelter plan

Questions?



# Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force

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This AM is intended to give a brief snapshot of the work of the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force, from its inception to the creation of these immediate needs recommendations.

- The Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was incorporated as one of several suggestions for assisting with the demobilization of emergency cold weather shelter in AR 2023-127, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly adopting a demobilization plan for the emergency shelter provided by the Municipality during the 2022-2023 winter season, passed and approved by the Assembly on April 11, 2023.
- The Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was officially created in AR 2023-146, As Amended, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly establishing a taskforce to explore the possibility of sanctioned camps, pass and approved by the Assembly on April 18, 2023.
- A press release, an email to the Assembly e-list, and social media were put out about the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force and encouraging community participation on April 24, 2023. Media stories were run regarding this task force on Alaska News Source and Alaska Public Media.
- The first meeting of the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was held on May 5, 2023. Approximately 30 individuals attended, of which half were representing a business or non-profit and half were representing themselves as individuals or a community council.

# Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force

- The second meeting of the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was held on May 11, 2023. Approximately 30 individuals attended, of which half were representing a business or non-profit and half were representing themselves as individuals or a community council.
- The third meeting of the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was held on May 18, 2023. Approximately 30 individuals attended, of which half were representing a business or non-profit and half were representing themselves as individuals or a community council. At this meeting, a subgroup was formed and tasked to meet over the weekend to come up with immediate needs recommendations for the full task force to consider.

AM re: AR 2023-xx Supporting Sanctioned Camps

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- The Immediate Needs Subgroup met on May 20, 2023 and May 21, 2023, with approximately 10 individuals in attendance both days, of which a supermajority were individuals representing themselves as individuals or a community council.



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- The fourth meeting of the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force was held on Monday, May 22, 2023. Approximately 30 individuals attended, of which half were representing a business or non-profit and half were representing themselves as individuals or a community council. At this meeting, the task force reviewed the recommendations put forward by the Immediate Needs Subgroup, made a variety of changes to the recommendations, and voted to send a resolution for consideration to the Assembly and Municipal administration.

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

Respectfully submitted: Felix Rivera  
Assembly Member, District 4 Midtown Anchorage

# Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force

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**WHEREAS**, sanctioned camps are not classified as shelter and will have no impact on decisions made by the Municipality on abatement; and

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

## Sanctioned Camp Resolution



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

**Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly supports relying on AMC subsection 25.70.040A.1. to designate areas that allow Municipally sanctioned camps at some or all the Municipally owned locations listed in the sections below based on feasibility. The Assembly calls on the Administration and managing agencies of municipal land to designate areas for sanctioned camping consistent with this resolution.

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

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution



# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

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

- regular clinical and support services as determined by need of the population staying at each camp
- potable water
- sanitation
- harm reduction, to include sharps containers and Narcan
- electricity
- food
- gathering space
- accessible by all providers, i.e. an open campus

AR(S) supporting sanctioned camps

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- security, to include adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry and exit points

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- action and mitigation oriented good neighbor agreement between providers and nearby community councils
- raised tree canopies of 6 to 8 feet for any wooded campsites
- Wi-fi or other internet accessibility
- Structural support for tents, to include wooden pallets or other platforms to allow tents to be off the ground and adequate rain protection
- fire suppression devices will be available on each camp site
- animal deterrents will be available on each camp site
- Mitigation of off-site impacts
- As appropriate, a women's, families with children, or other vulnerable populations only designated area should be considered

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

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution



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

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

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution



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

**Section 8.** The Anchorage Assembly respectfully requests private landowners with large vacant or unused parking lots to consider sponsoring a sanctioned camp site, if legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.

AR(S) supporting sanctioned camps

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**Section 9.** The Anchorage Assembly requests the Administration put out a quick-turnaround RFP or waive Title 7 requirements to solicit providers/operators for sanctioned camps. No more than two sanctioned camp locations should be managed by a single provider.

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

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

- 10 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 11 • Start date of June 19, 2023
- 12 • Closure date of September 4, 2023, which is the traditional closure  
13 date of the campground
- 14 • Tents should be limited only to established campsites
- 15 • Serve a single adult population
- 16 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports to begin and  
17 transition to an intentional camp
- 18 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or  
19 as office space

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

- 23 • 20 to 40 individuals
  - 24 • Start date of June 19, 2023
  - 25 • Year-round operation or until such time as the building can no  
26 longer be occupied
  - 27 • Serve as a transition for individuals currently staying at the Sullivan  
28 Arena who do not have a plan come May 31, 2023
  - 29 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports
  - 30 • Make use of 10 of the rooms in the building for habitation
  - 31 • Up to 2 ASD relocatable buildings placed on site to be used for  
32 habitation or for service providers
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# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

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**Section 12.** In Assembly District 3, West Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the land around the Clitheroe Center as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 30 to 40 individuals
- Start date of June 19, 2023
- Closure date of September 1, 2024
- Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in the parking lot or in tents on land around the facility
- Building should not be used for habitation
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a dry, or non-substance use, location
- Plan for transportation needs considering the distance of this location
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

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

- 5 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 6 • Start date of June 19, 2023
- 7 • Closure date of September 1, 2024
- 8 • Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in a  
9 designated space or in tents, and transition to Pallet Shelters and  
10 tiny homes
- 11 • Serve a single adult population
- 12 • Run as a low barrier location
- 13 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or  
14 as office space

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

- 19 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 20 • Start date of June 19, 2023
- 21 • Closure date of August 1, 2023
- 22 • Tents only
- 23 • Serve a single adult population
- 24 • Run as a low barrier location
- 25 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site, if feasible, for service  
26 providers or as office space

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution





# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

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**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.

# Sanctioned Camp Resolution

- ▶ Ordinance amending 25.70.040A.1 to designate specific locations for sanctioned camps
- ▶ Resolution allowing the Municipality to accept the ASD relocatable buildings
- ▶ Ordinance allowing ASD relocatable buildings to be used for habitation
- ▶ Ordinance temporarily waiving Title 21 and Title 23 specific to any tiny homes used for habitation within sanctioned camp sites
- ▶ Resolution allowing the Municipality to accept any tiny homes built assuming they meet the value threshold
- ▶ Resolution / Memorandum appropriating funds for an operator(s) and approving the chosen operator(s)

## Funding Sources

Fund balance

Unspent alcohol tax funds

Reallocate funds

# Amendments

- ▶ Fine tune the population description for 1805 Academy location
- ▶ Add a WHEREAS clause about the work of the Complex Behavioral Health Needs Community Task Force
- ▶ IF NEEDED, make it explicit that the establishment of sanctioned camps will not lead to abatement

# What's Next?

- ▶ The task force will be meeting six more times and will be focusing on finalizing their recommendations in key areas:
  - ▶ June 1: Immediate Needs and Plan Forward
  - ▶ June 8: Support Services
  - ▶ June 15: Safety and Security
  - ▶ June 22: Planning and Design, Site and Location
  - ▶ June 29: Operations, Management, and Metrics for Success
  - ▶ July 5: Adoption of Final Report

Questions?