



ALASKA BLACK CAUCUS

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Authentic, Bold, Committed

The Alaska Black Caucus Endorses Municipal Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board

The Alaska Black Caucus is pleased to endorse the creation of a Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board for the Municipality of Anchorage, as outlined by Assembly Member Felix Rivera's proposed ordinance.

Our community is home to thousands of Alaskans who find themselves struggling without access to regular, nighttime shelter that is stable and safe. Each houseless person and each houseless family has their own story about living in Anchorage without secure housing. Many stories involve hunger or health issues, underemployment, violence or other abuse. These tales are painful to hear and hard to acknowledge. There are as well countless stories of people in Anchorage who experienced houselessness for a time, but are now living in safe and secure circumstances. These are stories of courage, perseverance and promise.

As public officials partner with private organizations to fashion effective programs providing shelter and services to the houseless among us, it is vital that they hear and appreciate the full and varied stories of houseless living in Anchorage. A Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board can gather and provide indispensable data and information to those in public office as they strive to get their arms around the complexities of houseless living in Anchorage.

Accordingly, the Alaska Black Caucus not only endorses the creation of this Board. We stand ready to assist the Board in its important work.

Sincerely

Celeste Hodge Growden
President/CEO
Alaska Black Caucus