

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Anchorage Assembly Takes the Lead to Address the Humanitarian Crisis**

**July 27, 2022**

*From: Assembly Members Felix Rivera, Kameron Perez-Verdia and Daniel Volland*

Yesterday, the Anchorage Assembly passed ARs 2022-221(S), As Amended (9-2) and 2022-222 (8-3), which will together bring online more than 300 units of housing.

"These actions were backed by robust public process and support. We still have much work to do, but no response was not an option. Neither was sending another 130 people who are currently in transitional housing back out on the street," said Assembly Member Daniel Volland. "I'm hopeful that this will give us some momentum to move in the right direction on homelessness."

Now that these dollars have been appropriated, these units could begin coming online as quickly as September.

"We've done our part as the legislative branch to create and approve a plan that aligns with the Assembly's long-term vision to actualize additional housing units, forward-fund emergency shelter needs for the upcoming winter and bring us closer to ending family homelessness in Anchorage," said Assembly Member Felix Rivera. "Now it is up to the administration to get these dollars out the door so the work can get done."

Although this plan will address many of the short-term homelessness needs which exist in the Municipality, there are still immediate needs of those camped at Centennial Park Campground.

"The Mayor must begin to tell the truth about the humanitarian crisis which exists on our streets and in the Centennial Park Campground," said Assembly Member Kameron Perez-Verdia. "We are in this situation because of this administration's lack of planning and poor coordination with community partners. It is my hope that this funding and clear direction will encourage the Mayor and his team to come back to the table and begin working with the Assembly and community partners to identify real solutions for this crisis."

Members Rivera, Volland, and Perez-Verdia will continue to push for action to on the immediate, short, and long-term needs to address homelessness within the Municipality and extend thanks to fellow Assembly members for leading on this issue. We also thank Brother Francis Shelter and Christian Health Associates for providing emergency sheltering services and we look forward to reviewing the adult sheltering plan put forward by the Anchorage Health Department in the August Assembly Housing and Homelessness Committee Meeting on August 17, 2022 at 11am.

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