



PRESS RELEASE

Anchorage Assembly Member Felix Rivera
Committee on Housing and Homelessness Chair

A Solution has Emerged to Ensure Emergency Sheltering Options are in Place by October 1

September 21, 2022

At today's meeting of the Assembly's Committee on Housing and Homelessness, the Emergency Shelter Task Force, Assembly members present at the committee meeting, and members of the public came to a consensus on an immediate emergency shelter plan for implementation by October 1.

"We have a plan!" said Assembly Member Felix Rivera, chair of the Assembly's Committee on Housing and Homelessness. "With phase one now underway – making sure we have places for people to go by October 1 – we can look to the future and continue to work on and implement short and long-term solutions to addressing emergency shelter and homelessness as a whole."

Official documents required to implement the emergency shelter plan will be available on Friday, September 23 **with a vote planned at a special meeting of the Anchorage Assembly on Monday, September 26 from 6 to 8pm at the Assembly Chambers.** Go to www.muni.org/Assembly for the agenda and meeting information.

"I look forward to the Assembly approving this plan on Monday. After that, it will be up to the Mayor to officially sign off on and quickly implement the plan. I was glad to see representation from the Administration at today's meeting. They said loud and clear that they want to hear from the public before making final decisions, so I encourage people to review our plan and give your feedback to the Mayor before next Monday's meeting," said Member Rivera.

The emergency plan components include:

- Increase of capacity at Brother Francis Shelter of 20 individuals
- Increase of capacity at Covenant House of 25 individuals
- Semi-congregate sheltering at Bean's Café of 40 individuals
- Non-congregate use of the former Golden Lion as housing of 120 individuals
- Congregate sheltering at the Sullivan Arena of 150 individuals

This plan will ensure that Anchorage has beds available by October 1 for the approximately 350 people who are currently unsheltered, and it meets the Emergency Shelter Task Force's criteria for options that reduce people's risk of exposure to winter conditions, are feasible to implement within the next month, have public support, and maintain capacity limits of 150 or fewer people per location.

- For more information on the work of the Emergency Shelter Task Force, go to: <https://aceh.org/task-force/>
- To contact the Mayor: mayor@muni.org
- To contact the Assembly: wmmas@anchorageak.gov

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