



PRESS RELEASE

Anchorage Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance

Assembly Chair

Anchorage Assembly Member Felix Rivera

Committee on Housing and Homelessness Chair

Assembly members listen to community concerns, add opportunity for public feedback on emergency shelter plan

September 22, 2022

After hearing concerns from community members about the proposal for the Assembly to take action on the emergency shelter plan on Monday during the observation of Rosh Hashana, Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance and Assembly Member Felix Rivera have agreed to **hold a special Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting on Sunday, September 25 at 2pm** to hear from members of the public unavailable on Monday.

“While we are still excited that we have a plan that does not impact youth hockey or our community recreation centers, we felt that it was important for us to respond to the request of the immediate neighbors surrounding the Golden Lion to create a space so they could actively participate in our deliberations,” said Chair LaFrance.

The special Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting will take place on Sunday, September 25 at 2pm at the Assembly Chambers in the Loussac Library.

The already-noticed special meeting of the Anchorage Assembly on Monday, September 26 from 6 to 8pm at the Assembly Chambers will still continue as planned and act as an additional opportunity to hear the public’s thoughts on the plan before the Assembly votes. Go to www.muni.org/assembly for the agendas and meeting information.

“This opportunity to hear from the public on Sunday will ensure that we can get the work done to provide shelter by October 1 for those suffering in the cold,” said Member Rivera. “This addition will hopefully meet and exceed the Mayor’s request to hear from the public before making final decisions. I invite people to review our plan and attend our meetings on Sunday and Monday and to provide direct feedback to the Assembly and Mayor.”

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 seeks to ensure that Anchorage has beds available by October 1 for the approximately 350 people who are currently unsheltered, and also meet 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: wmas@anchorageak.gov

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Contact: Felix Rivera, Felix.Rivera@anchorageak.gov