

LAID-ON-THE-TABLE

Submitted by: Assembly Member Rivera
Prepared by: Sanctioned Camp Community
Task Force
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: May 23, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
A PLAN FOR SANCTIONED CAMPS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ANCHORAGE**

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane resting space is necessary for a person to lead a healthy, productive life; and

WHEREAS, lack of resting space incurs a great cost upon both the individuals involved and society at large; and

WHEREAS, AMC 25.70.040A.1. prohibits camping on municipal land and AMC 8.45.010 prohibits trespass on both public and private land, which creates a situation where there is no legal place for individuals to sleep outdoors overnight with or without a tent or bedding, or during a full 24-hour period; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality does not currently fund or maintain a permanent, general-population emergency shelter following the closure of the Sullivan Area on May 1, 2023, and will no longer maintain an emergency shelter for the remaining 90 individuals with complex needs as of May 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, people can become unhoused because they experience a combination of addiction, mental illness and poverty; or due to a work-related or other serious accident, inability to pay a medical or vehicle expense, job loss, divorce or separation; loss of supportive family or friends, or other life circumstances; and

WHEREAS, unhoused people in Anchorage, by necessity because of lack of adequate housing or shelter space, are currently finding somewhere to live in our green spaces, parks, open spaces and undeveloped parcels; and

WHEREAS, living unsheltered in Anchorage's challenging climate and environmental conditions throughout the year has a profoundly negative social, environmental, public health and community impact; and

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane supported shelter areas significantly reduce these impacts; and

WHEREAS, living unsheltered requires a person to enter survival mode, dramatically restricts a person's ability to meet their physical and mental needs, gain employment or attain the personal identification needed to access existing services; and

WHEREAS, when previously unhoused people have sanitary, secure and humane sanctioned shelter, with structure and support, they have the energy and time to access services and move their lives forward; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that the population experiencing homelessness has a diversity of needs, including mental health and substance misuse needs, and as much as possible those needs should be considered during the planning of sanctioned camps, emergency shelter, and other services; and

WHEREAS, sanctioned camps are an imperfect solution and should be seen as a pathway to housing and other needed supports, yet are far preferable to the unsanctioned, unsanitary, and environmentally-damaging encampments now impacting green spaces and neighborhoods throughout the Municipality; and

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.

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. In addition, the Anchorage Assembly supports requesting the landowners of the privately owned locations listed in the sections below consider the feasibility of setting up sanctioned camps on their property, if legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.

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 1.

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
- security, to include adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry and exit points
- 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 9 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 the 9 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.

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 to, specific only to tiny homes within sanctioned camp sites, 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.

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.

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.

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

- 50 to 75 individuals
- Start date of May 31, 2023
- Closure date of September 4, 2023, which is the traditional closure date of the campground
- Tents should be limited only to established campsites
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as low barrier location with structured supports to begin and transition to an intentional camp
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space

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

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

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 May 31, 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

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

- 50 to 75 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 a designated space or in tents, and transition to Pallet Shelters and tiny homes
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a low barrier location
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space

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

- 50 to 75 individuals
- Start date of May 31, 2023
- Closure date of August 1, 2023
- Tents only
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a low barrier location
- 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site, if feasible, for service providers or as office space

Section 15. The Municipality: 1) supports requesting Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) consider the land at C St and 100th Ave as a sanctioned camp in Assembly District 3, West Anchorage, 2) supports requesting Pacific Northern Academy consider the usage of the land around the former Alaska Native Charter School at 550 Bragaw as a sanctioned camp in Assembly District 1, North Anchorage, and 3) supports requesting the State of Alaska consider the usage of the Eagle River Campground as a sanctioned camp in Assembly District 2, Eagle River / Chugiak.

Section 16. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk