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 25.70.040.A.1 prohibits camping on municipal land and AMC
8.45.010 prohibits trespass on both public and private land, which creates no legal
place for individuals to remain overnight, 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 amending AMC 25.70.040.A.1 to allow Municipally sanctioned camps at some or all the Municipally owned locations listed in the sections below based on feasibility. 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.

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, 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 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 requests the administration to ask for 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 requests the administration 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 request the administration ask 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.

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 landowners with large
vacant or unused parking lots to consider sponsoring a sanctioned camp site.

Section 9. The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration put out a quick-
turnaround RFP or waive Title 7 requirements to solicit providers for sanctioned camps. No more than two sanctioned camp locations should be managed by a single provider.

Section 10. In 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk