ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-222

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
APPROPRIATING WHEN TENDERED AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE
MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($3,400,000) OF THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
AS A DIRECT GRANT TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ANCHORAGE, LLC FOR
PURCHASE OF THE GUEST HOUSE.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed and President Biden signed the
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a $1.9 trillion relief bill,
established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide $350
billion in emergency funding for eligible local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund) is
intended to provide to state, local, and Tribal governments support in their response
to and economic recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, a workgroup made up of Assembly members, the Mayoral
administration, and community partners was formed to develop a plan to exit the
Mass Care Facility at Sullivan Arena and launch an integrated client and community
centered approach to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2021, the Anchorage Assembly approved AR 2021-350,
As Amended, which identified an exit strategy to end mass care that included the
need to make additional workforce housing units available; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Anchorage, LLC is under contract to purchase the
Guest House which will provide 110 units of workforce housing and 20 units of
permanent supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, the permanent supportive housing units set aside at the Guest House will
leverage the Assembly’s ongoing investments in the Home for Good program; and

WHEREAS, the workforce housing units will be reserved for those individuals that
make less than 30% of the area median income or below; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has funding
available to help pay for operational costs (HOME-ARPA, AHFC emergency housing
vouchers, CDBG-CV) that will further leverage this funding; now, therefore,
THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. That an amount not to exceed Three Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars ($3,400,000) of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds is hereby appropriated, when tendered, to the Federal Direct Grants Fund (241900) and as a direct grant to First Presbyterian Anchorage, LLC to cover the costs for purchasing the Guest House that will provide an additional 110 units of workforce housing and 20 units of permanent supportive housing.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ______ day of ______________, 2022.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk
From: Assembly Members Perez-Verdia and Rivera

Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATING WHEN TENDERED AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($3,400,000) AS A DIRECT GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ANCHORAGE, LLC FOR PURCHASE OF THE GUEST HOUSE.

The Guest House will convert 130 hotel units to housing for those who are employed, workforce-ready, and/or need permanent supportive housing. This is part of the facilitated plan’s target for adding 300 housing units for these populations of people experiencing homelessness. The facilitated plan identified funding sources to implement the various projects included in the plan. Specifically, the facilitated plan identified $3.4M from HUD funds known as HOME-ARP, that are administered by AHD, to help pay for the Guest House acquisition. The remainder of the purchase price comes from philanthropy and a prior MOA investment.

AHD was to begin the process to have those funds approved for use by HUD last February. AHD did not begin the process until a few weeks ago and now says the soonest it can be through HUD is November. Further, AHD says the maximum funds would be only $3.2M instead of $3.4M. Both the timing and the amount jeopardize completing the Guest House purchase which is set to close at the end of August.

Also, the Guest House is now transitionally housing between 130-150 people who have left the pandemic mass care response facilities. The funding for that transitional housing ends at the end of August. The plan has been to convert the current Guest House residents to housing leases post-closing and the funds for that can only be used for housing leases.

Without this funding, the Guest House purchase may be lost. And, even if the owner agreed to a closing extension, the residents currently residing there would not be able to stay because there are no funds for that. This puts 130-150 more people at risk of joining the already several hundreds of people currently without housing or shelter.

The Department of Treasury issued a final rule that became effective April 1, 2022 to provide greater detail on allowable uses of this funding for local communities received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. They further released fact sheets on how state, local, and Tribal governments are using these funds to keep families in their homes and making more affordable housing available in their
communities. You can find this fact sheet at the following link:
https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Housing-Investments-
Factsheet.pdf

I request your support for the resolution.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel
Respectfully submitted: Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Member
District 3, West Anchorage

Felix Rivera, Assembly Member
District 4, Midtown Anchorage