

Submitted by: Assembly Members Rivera,  
Weddleton, and Mayor Bronson  
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel and Department  
of Law  
For reading: April 26, 2022

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR No. 2022-XX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR’S OFFICE  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED NAVIGATION CENTER AND LOW BARRIER  
SHELTER AT TUDOR AND ELMORE AND TIME LIMITING THE PROPOSAL.**

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**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage defines a “*Navigation Center*” as a Housing First, low-barrier, service enriched environment focused on moving individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter, and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Navigation Center will follow a “Housing First” approach that prioritizes permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS** the commitment to this approach is guided by the principle that people need necessities like food and a stable place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to behavioral health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the commitment to Housing First is based on the principle that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality will employ the five keys of effective emergency sheltering at the emergency shelter co-located with the proposed Navigation Center: (1) Housing First approach, (2) safe and appropriate diversion, (3) immediate and low barrier access, (4) housing-focused rapid exit, and (5) data-driven performance measurement, and the Municipality will continue to work with a variety of subject matter experts in designing, implementing and supporting the programs, operations and services at the Navigation Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality acknowledges that emergency shelters and other types of crisis housing (crisis beds, interim housing, motel vouchers) play a critical role in the Municipality’s response to homelessness and that people in a housing crisis will always need a safe and stable place to go that is immediately available; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to support the community's goal of reaching  
2 functional zero, which is a milestone that indicates a community has  
3 measurably ended homelessness for a population — and that success is  
4 measured by whether they are driving population-level reductions in  
5 homelessness; and  
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7 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to limiting the duration of the proposed  
8 Navigation Center to keep the focus on achieving functional zero through housing  
9 individuals experiencing homelessness and supporting existing emergency  
10 shelter, prevention and housing programs in Anchorage; and  
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12 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality acknowledges that mass care provided by the  
13 Municipality is an extraordinary intervention in response to an unprecedented  
14 pandemic and that unwinding mass care takes resources and interventions that  
15 are time limited to meet the heightened immediate need and that the community's  
16 plan to end homelessness is focused on Housing First; and  
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18 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to prioritize spending one-time funds on the  
19 procurement, construction and operation of the proposed Navigation Center and  
20 prioritize the recurring funding for housing and homelessness services currently in  
21 the Municipality's budget on supporting existing effective emergency shelter,  
22 prevention and housing programs in Anchorage; now, therefore,  
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## 24 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND THE ADMINISTRATION RESOLVES:**

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28 **Section 1.** the Municipality commits to achieving the goals of Housing First and  
29 functional zero within 2 years from the date construction is complete and the  
30 Navigation Center is fully operational.  
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32 **Section 2.** the Municipality commits to developing a program for low barrier shelter  
33 and for a navigation center utilizing both local and national subject matter experts,  
34 which (1) utilizes Housing First principles, the five keys to effective low barrier  
35 shelter and meets the adopted definition of what constitutes a Navigation Center,  
36 (2) join the Navigation Center community of practice, (3) identify a dedicated point  
37 person within the Administration to participate and bring additional MOA employees  
38 to participate as appropriate and requested, and (4) the program developed by this  
39 work group will be used to evaluate responses to any requests for proposals for  
40 operators of the low barrier shelter and navigation center at this location.  
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42 **Section 3.** the Municipality commits to ending operations of the Navigation Center  
43 once the following has been achieved:  
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- 45 (1) At any point in time, the number of people experiencing sheltered or  
46 unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly  
47 housing placement rate for people experiencing homelessness, or (2) where  
48 the total number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered  
49 homelessness in the Municipality is less than one hundred and fifty (150).  
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**Section 4.** the Navigation Center is considered an emergency shelter location and use of emergency surge capacity will be activated and deactivated following requirements in AMC chapter 16.120, Emergency Shelter Plan for Homeless Persons.

**Section 5.** the Municipality calls upon all community partners to work together in achieving these community goals.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk