

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS COFFEY,
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Prepared by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: August 25, 2009

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 8-25-09

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2009-190

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY CONCEPTUAL PLAN TO MAKE
AVAILABLE BY WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR LEASE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER PLANT 2 (GLENN HIGHWAY) AT MINIMAL COST
FOR ALASKA SEEDS OF CHANGE LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, currently there are very few services available to assist young people transitioning out of the foster care system; when young people leave foster care they often end up jobless, homeless, or entering the correctional system; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Urban League is a not-for-profit corporation organized under 26 USC §501.C.3, and is the local affiliate of the National Urban League; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Urban League is the sponsor of Alaska Seeds of Change, a program to be offered in community partnership with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, NeighborWorks, Denali Family Services, local businesses and municipal and state social services organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Seeds of Change targets high risk youth aged 17-22, referred from state and community programs and agencies, and utilizes University of Alaska student practicum placements to assist with case management; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Alaska Seeds of Change is to offer a job-training and life skills development program for young people aging out of the foster care system, in the context of a greenhouse business to grow and sell vegetables to local markets; and

WHEREAS, training in financial literacy, job skills, continuing education, and high school completion are included, along with vocational training in greenhouse operation, business enterprise, facilities maintenance, conflict resolution and leadership – offering a basic skill set designed to promote successful youth transition to independent adulthood; and

WHEREAS, young people will enter the program after a screening and interview process that shows they are interested in gaining business and life skills and moving into satisfying employment and permanent housing. Approximately 20 youth will be served at a time with an average stay of for 6-18 months; and

WHEREAS, participants will work in the greenhouse for at least 10 hours per week, spending the remainder of their time completing education and engaging in training. Participants will be housed in a nearby housing complex with an on-site residential manager; and

1 WHEREAS, the Alaska Seeds of Change training program will include
2 greenhouse facilities on ½ acre for an 8-bay greenhouse of approximately 22,000
3 square feet, and an auxiliary building for classroom, meeting, office, produce storage
4 and preparation (refrigeration) and computer lab space; and
5

6 WHEREAS, location of Seeds of Change training on municipal grounds at
7 Municipal Light & Power Plant 2 on the Glenn Highway is critical for donation of
8 available waste heat from power generation; and
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10 WHEREAS, the program is designed to provide critical social services at no out-
11 of-pocket cost to the Municipality; and
12

13 WHEREAS, for Seeds of Change to move forward under the Denali
14 Commission's business plan and funding process, the concept must have the support of
15 the local governing body; and
16

17 WHEREAS, if this preliminary conceptual plan is approved, the Anchorage Urban
18 League will move forward in the funding process through the Denali Commission, and
19 the Municipality of Anchorage will move forward to negotiate the terms and conditions
20 necessary for a written agreement or lease pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code
21 section 25.30.040B., and bring those terms forward to the Assembly for approval by
22 ordinance for One Dollar per year for a term not to exceed the term limit provided under
23 25.30.050B; now therefore
24

25 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:
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27 **Section 1.** Subject to submission and approval of an ordinance, and as a preliminary
28 step in support of the Seeds of Change program sponsored by the Anchorage Urban
29 League, the conceptual plan to co-locate by lease or other written agreement the Seeds
30 of Change greenhouse and life skills training program on the Municipal Light & Power
31 Plant 2 site, with utilization of waste heat from power generation, is approved.
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33 **Section 2.** Development and construction of the Seeds of Change greenhouse and
34 program buildings are subject to all applicable building code regulations.
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36 **Section 3.** The Anchorage Assembly retains the authority to approve the terms and
37 conditions of any lease or other municipal agreement for the Alaska Seeds of Change
38 program.
39

40 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 25th day of
41 August, 2009.
42

43 Debbi Ossander
44
45 Chair

46 ATTEST:

47 Brian S. Gunt
48
49 Municipal Clerk