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Assembly Member Honeman  
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Prepared by: Assembly Counsel  
For reading: August 17, 2010

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2010-242**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE ANCHORAGE FIREFIGHTERS' ANNUAL 3-HOUR FILL-THE-BOOT EXERCISE AS A COMMUNITY EVENT OF DE MINIMIS EXTRA EXPENSE TO THE MUNICIPALITY.**

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WHEREAS, Fill-the-Boot has been an exercise endorsed by the Municipality and undertaken by the Anchorage Firefighters as a community event since 1981; and

WHEREAS, once a year for three (3) hours, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before Labor Day, Anchorage Firefighters have been joined by community volunteers to raise money to fight muscular dystrophy; and

WHEREAS, since 1954, firefighters in cities all across the United States and Canada have made Fill-the-Boot a community fundraising event to support families stricken with this disabling neuromuscular disease; and

WHEREAS, every year more local governments join in to show support for their firefighters by endorsing and participating in a local Fill-the-Boot community event; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, the Municipality of Anchorage has endorsed and supported this event by staging "at-ready" fire trucks in areas within the fire station district, at no extra expense to the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the fire trucks and associated crew members are from on-duty stations, where the firefighters would be in paid on-duty status and housed at the station, awaiting a potential call-out to respond; and

WHEREAS, once a year, several fire trucks and associated firefighter crew members (not all) have been allowed by the Municipal Fire Chief to serve their on-duty status during the three (3) hour window from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., together with their "at-ready" fire truck in case of call-out, outside the fire station, instead of housed inside the fire station; and

WHEREAS, this 3-hour portion of the participating firefighter's shift has been served with no extra expense to the Municipality; and

1           WHEREAS, during this annual 3-hour community event, the on-duty fire  
2 trucks and associated firefighter crew members are joined within the fire station  
3 district by off-duty firefighters, other off-duty public safety personnel, and community  
4 supporters in raising money and awareness to fight of this debilitating  
5 neuromuscular disease; and

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7           WHEREAS, muscular dystrophy strikes families in Anchorage, just as it does  
8 families in communities throughout Alaska and across America; and

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10           WHEREAS, Anchorage community families who have suffered the disease of  
11 muscular dystrophy are significantly helped by the work of Anchorage firefighters in  
12 this annual 3-hour community event and in the annual summer camp for muscular  
13 dystrophy, staffed with the help of Anchorage firefighter volunteers; and

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15           WHEREAS, funds raised by the Anchorage firefighters during Fill-the-Boot  
16 are administered by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) under an "open  
17 door" policy, accessible to all sufferers of the disease; and

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19           WHEREAS, without assistance from MDA Alaska, many sufferers of  
20 muscular dystrophy in our community and their families would be without adequate  
21 assistance resources, and this would hurt the community as a whole in many direct  
22 and indirect ways; and

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24           WHEREAS, the fundraising model used by Anchorage firefighters in Fill-the-  
25 Boot leverages the community's support for its firefighters to directly benefit the  
26 sufferers of muscular dystrophy, at no increase in government expense; and

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28           WHEREAS, in 2010, AO 2010-39 and AO 2010-44(S-1) established a street  
29 solicitation permitting process and clarified the local governing body's intent not to  
30 prohibit the Municipality's continued participation in staging fire trucks out of the  
31 station in "at-ready" status during the 3-hour Fill-the-Boot exercise; and

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33           WHEREAS, it is not unusual for public and private entities to pay for "team  
34 building" exercises to relieve the stress and depression that may otherwise befall  
35 first-responders such as firefighters, by the very nature of their work; and

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37           WHEREAS, the Assembly and the Mayor have engaged in separate and joint  
38 efforts to review and delineate legislative policy and administrative procedure  
39 regarding various community events, in fairness to all concerned;

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2 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED that after review of the foregoing  
3 considerations, the Anchorage Assembly makes the following findings and  
4 recommendations:

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6 1. The Anchorage Municipal Assembly finds the Anchorage Firefighters'  
7 annual 3-hour Fill-the-Boot exercise is a community event of *de minimis* extra  
8 expense to the Municipality.

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10 2. Absent declaration to the contrary under oath before the Assembly by  
11 the Anchorage Fire Chief, the Assembly finds no reason to believe that public  
12 safety is at jeopardy if several "at-ready" fire trucks are staged within fire station  
13 districts, instead of inside the fire station, during the annual 3-hour Fill-the-Boot  
14 exercise.

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16 3. Absent declaration to the contrary under oath before the Assembly by  
17 the Anchorage Fire Chief, the Assembly acknowledges the stress inherent to  
18 service as a first-responder and finds the annual 3-hour Fill-the-Boot exercise is  
19 appropriate to team-building, consistent with principles of esprit de corps, and  
20 beneficial to the health and safety of Anchorage firefighters, who serve the  
21 Municipality as first-responders.

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23 4. Since 1981, the Municipality of Anchorage has supported the  
24 Anchorage Firefighters' endorsement of the fight against muscular dystrophy by  
25 making this a community event, complete with "at-ready" fire trucks and associated  
26 crew members, uniformed "off-duty" firefighters, and community volunteers.

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28 5. The Anchorage Municipal Assembly calls on the community of  
29 Anchorage to support its local firefighters by generously "Filling the Boot" during this  
30 annual 3-hour event.

