

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR No. 2023-260(S)*

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY'S DIVERSE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOUSING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AND ADOPTING GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE HOUSING POLICY DECISIONS.

WHEREAS, the community of Anchorage was founded in 1915 as a tent city on the unceded lands of the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and grew in less than 100 years to have a population of almost 300,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the community has faced many housing stresses in its history, from housing shortages during periods of prosperity and rapid growth, to mass out-migrations during recessions, and now a lack of supply and diversity of housing stock to meet the changing demands of our population; and

WHEREAS, as the community grows and changes over time, it becomes a better place as a direct result of the collective hard work, investments, innovations, and creativity of the diverse people who make Anchorage their home; and

WHEREAS, a home takes many forms, but is in essence a place where a person feels safe, where a person can rest, and serves as a stable anchoring point in a person's life, regardless of the many challenges they may face; and

WHEREAS, housing also takes many forms, from modest to grand, from large to small, owned and rented, old and new, in urban neighborhoods and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, some residents in our community live in the same home they grew up in, or has been owned by multiple generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, some community residents chose their home because of the amenities and features of the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, some residents live in neighborhoods they could afford when they moved in, but would not be able to afford a similar home today; and

WHEREAS, some residents live in their ideal home for their employment or profession, family size, life stage, or personal preferences; and

WHEREAS, some residents' homes do not meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, some residents can only afford a home by living with roommates; and

WHEREAS, some residents cannot afford housing, even if they are employed; and

WHEREAS, some residents live in unsafe places, but have few or no alternatives

* The (S) incorporates amendments to the original AR passed and approved at the August 8, 2023 Assembly meeting, without showing legislative drafting markup of those amendments. Legislative drafting is used to show changes in the (S) from the original AR, As Amended.

1 they can afford in order to better their situation; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, some residents have had housing, but were evicted because they could
4 not continue to afford rent; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, some residents are choosing to leave, and the difficulty of finding or
7 affording housing that meets their needs is a significant factor in that choice; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, our community values home ownership as a way to maintain stability,
10 build wealth, and feel invested in the long-term health of the community; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, increasing home ownership includes reducing cost burdens on
13 residents who rent, allowing renters to build financial assets to purchase a home;

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15 **WHEREAS**, our community values diversity, which means not only diversity of
16 residents, but also diversity of homes of many sizes, designs, and price points;

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18 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly previously set broad vision for the Municipality in the
19 areas of economic and workforce development in AR 2022-136; identified
20 actionable strategies to address the community's housing shortage in AR 2022-416;
21 and adopted Housing among its 2023 priorities in AR 2023-45;

22
23 **WHEREAS**, AR 2022-416 committed the Assembly to "develop a comprehensive
24 housing policy outlining an Assembly action plan"; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly will sponsor Housing Action Week in Anchorage from
27 October 30 to November 4, 2023, with a Community Housing Action Summit
28 planned for Friday, November 3, 2023;

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30 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

31
32 **Section 1.** The Assembly recognizes the right of all people to choose the
33 Municipality of Anchorage as their home.

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35 **Section 2.** The Assembly recognizes its duty to weigh the interests of all
36 Anchorage residents, and adopt public policy informed by diverse perspectives.

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38 **Section 3.** The Assembly adopts the following housing policy principles:
39 1. The Municipality strives to be a community with diverse and abundant
40 opportunities for residents to choose a home that meets their needs.
41 2. The Municipality will work to increase opportunities for home ownership by:
42 a. Enacting policies to increase supply of housing for sale;
43 b. Enacting policies to increase supply of rental housing; **[and]**
44 c. **Enacting policies to increase the proportion of resident-occupied**
45 **housing; and**
46 d. Pursuing strategies to reduce housing cost burdens on residents.
47 3. The Municipality cannot unilaterally address all barriers in the housing
48 market, but will act locally through plans, policies, and funding decisions to
49 create more favorable market conditions.

4. The Assembly will support the community to achieve meaningful progress not through a single policy change, but through shared commitment and ongoing collaboration to evaluate, identify, and remove local barriers.

5. Housing policies will align with the adopted comprehensive plan elements in AMC Section 21.01.080.

Section 4. The Assembly will present a housing policy strategic plan at the Community Housing Action Summit in fall 2023, and work collaboratively with the community to prioritize actionable strategies for the upcoming year.

Section 5[4]. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 22nd day of August, 2023.



ATTEST:



Municipal Clerk

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MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 660-2023

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

From: Assembly Member Brawley

Subject: AR 2023-260(S): A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY’S DIVERSE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOUSING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AND ADOPTING GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE HOUSING POLICY DECISIONS.

The substitute (S) version of this Resolution incorporates the amendment approved at the August 8, 2023 meeting, as well as recommendations during debate to more clearly connect the policy guidelines in this Resolution with past, current, and future Assembly housing policy work. Specifically, the (S) version refers to prior Assembly resolutions passed in the last year, as well as acknowledging Housing Action Week and the Community Housing Action Summit scheduled for fall 2023.

The (S) version also connects to an action in AR 2022-416, directing the Assembly to “develop a housing policy and action plan.” This work is underway; the revised Resolution defines this product as a “housing policy strategic plan.” The intent for this plan is a clearly defined vision, goals, and priority actionable strategies. This strategic plan does not replace, and should not conflict with, the vision, goals, and strategies in the Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan: it will be compatible with that larger plan, but also help focus the Assembly and community’s energy toward actionable changes that will have a significant positive impact on our multi-faceted housing crisis. The strategic plan will also refer to prior Assembly actions, such as removing minimum parking requirements¹ and code reform to encourage accessory dwelling units (ADUs),² and will reference work already in process, such as the pending ordinance to remove barriers to building 3- and 4-plex housing.

This Resolution is intended to provide an initial framework to inform the draft housing policy strategic plan, to be presented at the Community Housing Action Summit this fall, and working with the community to choose priority actions, building on brainstorming at the May 19, 2023 Assembly Housing Retreat, and policy ideas generated through prior Assembly work products.

I request your support for the (S) version of this Resolution.

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel’s Office

¹ AO 2022-80(S), As Amended, passed November 22, 2022.

² AO 2022-107, As Amended, passed January 10, 2023.

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Respectfully submitted: Anna Brawley, Assembly Member
District 3, West Anchorage