

Municipal Clerk's Office
Postponed Indefinitely
Date: **March 6, 2018**

Submitted by: Assembly Vice-Chair Dunbar,
Assembly Chair Traini, Assembly
Members Constant, Croft,
Demboski, Dyson, LaFrance,
Petersen, Rivera, Steele,
Weddleton, and Mayor Berkowitz
Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office
For reading: March 6, 2018

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2018-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY CONGRATULATING TOM AND RUTH NIGHSWANDER, RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 SHINING LIGHTS AWARD.

WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Sholom of Anchorage presents its annual Shining Lights Award to Alaskans who exemplify the Jewish value of *Tikkun Olam* "repair of the world" through dedication to community service and demonstration of the highest level of character, integrity, and ethics; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Sholom selected Dr. Tom and Nurse Ruth Nighswander as the 2018 Shining Lights Award Honorees for their outstanding contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Tom and Ruth Nighswander served as Peace Corps volunteers in Malawi from 1964 to 1966, shaping their lives and leading both to careers in public health; and

WHEREAS, Tom began his career in 1972 with the National Health Service Corps, where he developed rural health centers in Galena, Yakutat, and Unalaska. In 1977, Tom joined the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage as a Family Practitioner and Emergency Room Physician. He continues to treat patients at the Southcentral Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Tom facilitated the Alaska Telehealth Advisory Commission from 1999 to 2007 with his effort giving rise to Alaska's eHealth Network and advancing access to health care in remote Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, Tom worked as a Professor and Regional Dean of the WWAMI Program for over 20 years, providing medical training to Alaskan residents and increasing the number of physicians in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Ruth has worked as a school nurse for over 30 years, initiating innovative programs, mentoring nurses and students, spearheading the transition to electronic health records throughout the Anchorage School District, and developing curriculum and teaching classes in subjects ranging from "Healthy Hearts" to First Aid. Ruth was awarded School Nurse of the Year for her creativity, team approach, and focus on the family; and

WHEREAS, Ruth actively promotes wellness programs for youth and families in the community wherever the need is greatest – helping at-risk teens, supporting students in need, raising funds for cancer research, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Tom and Ruth helped found the Malawi Children's Village in 2000, serving on the Executive Board, dedicating several weeks a year living and working in the village, and supporting orphans from the AIDS epidemic. Ruth lectures about Malawi culture and the devastating impact of AIDS and created the Adopt-a-School Program for Anchorage and Malawi schools; and

WHEREAS, by their example, Tom and Ruth Nighswander inspire others with their compassion,

dedication, and enthusiasm to "repair the world" in communities near and far; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Sholom will present Tom and Ruth Nighswander with the 2018 Shining Lights Award at a banquet in their honor at the Hotel Captain Cook, Thursday, April 26, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly congratulates

**Tom and Ruth Nighswander
2018 Shining Lights Award Recipients**

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk