



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS

August 12, 2021

To the Anchorage Assembly:

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) supports AO-2021.76, to establish a houseless lived experience advisory board for the assembly. People experiencing homelessness and their perspectives, expertise and input should be the basis for any policy or plan about homelessness. These important voices are often silenced, and the lived expertise ignored. ACEH acknowledges the dignity of all people experiencing homelessness, a varied group of individuals that changes as community needs change, including unsheltered people and seeks to build more equitable systems based on respect and compassion. The work is possible because of engagement with people who are impacted by community systems but we as a community need to find processes to engage these voices in the very systems they are impacted by. We know that a successful community wide homelessness response must hold the people it serves at the center of our decision making.

The amendment seeks to include people from over-represented subpopulations of the community on the council. This demonstrates the care and consideration that all unhoused people deserve. The creation of the houseless lived experience advisory board is a necessary step to improve development of city-wide homeless services. Formalizing input and review by community members impacted by policy level decision making is a best practice that helps to achieve better outcomes.

Jasmine Boyle

ACEH Executive Director