ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2020-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ADOPTING ANCHORED HOME, THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS IN ANCHORAGE: 2018-2021

WHEREAS, homelessness has been a persistent problem within the Municipality of Anchorage for many years; and

WHEREAS, after nearly a year of community engagement, the Municipality along with many community partners created the "Anchored Home Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage: 2018-2021"¹ (Anchored Home), and it was presented to Assembly Committee on Homelessness on September 18, 2018, and to the community by Mayor Berkowitz and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) in October 2018; and

WHEREAS, since then the ACEH provided monthly scorecards in early 2019, prepared monthly updates to the Assembly Committee on Homelessness, and hosted quarterly public meetings; and

WHEREAS, Anchored Home addresses homelessness by directing resources to four key pillars, or perspectives – investing in Prevention & Diversion, strengthening the Anchorage Housing & Support System, ensuring Public Health & Safety, and bolstering Advocacy & Funding; and

WHEREAS, since October 2018, the Municipality, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, United Way, philanthropists, business partners and homelessness service organizations have worked to implement the foundational elements of Anchored Home, including data collection and reporting, establishing coordinated entry and intake, piloting supportive housing, and outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, while Anchored Home envisions building a more robust continuum of care based on existing services, the services in Anchorage have been reduced during the last 18 months. Given the ongoing State of Alaska fiscal uncertainty for housing and homeless projects, implementation of Anchored Home has shifted to meet changing capacity of the community. COVID-19 and its economic impacts on new homelessness will continue to change demand in the coming months. Anchored Home will now be supplemented yearly by an annual Gap Analysis and Community Priorities document created by ACEH’s Advisory Council. This yearly

needs assessment will more precisely identify needed action steps yearly under the umbrella of Anchored Home; and

WHEREAS, Anchored Home through its new implementation paradigm is finding housing for individuals experiencing homelessness in the Municipality and creating adequate capacity to ensure that homelessness remains as minimal as possible and will be rare, brief, and a one-time experience; and

WHEREAS, starting in March 2020, the Municipality of Anchorage was faced with the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality opened mass shelter on March 21, 2020 to shelter individuals experiencing homelessness in response to the COVID-19 emergency and the remaining shelter providers reconfigured their operations in accordance with the Center for Disease Control guidelines, including day and night services in a single site, physical distancing in their facilities, shelter beds spacing, sanitizing protocols and equipment, and storage for personal belongings; and

WHEREAS, throughout the implementation of Anchored Home, the Municipality and its partners have seen over 375 individuals moved to housing from shelters across the Municipality during the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, while the Anchored Home Plan has been a guiding document for the Municipality’s homelessness response it has not been adopted by the Anchorage Assembly; and

WHEREAS, while Anchored Home is focused on achieving functional zero by the end of 2021 with its three-year priorities and action plans, the policies and principles of Anchored Home can provide guidance to the Municipality’s public policies and actions related to homelessness long into the future; now, therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES, that the Anchored Home Plan is the Municipality’s adopted plan to address homelessness and until changed by subsequent Assembly action shall continue to be the vehicle for continued and welcomed community engagement and the implementation of homelessness response policy and appropriations in the Municipality of Anchorage.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ______ day of ______________, 2020.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk