

Midtown Community Council
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503
Resolution 2023-02 Final

April 12, 2023

Reason: A resolution opposing the proposed use of the Arctic Recreation Center (ARC) and its property as a location for a low barrier shelter and other homeless services.

WHEREAS, the Midtown Community Council (MTCC) is an organization representing the interests of the residents, businesses, and property owners of the Midtown area of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the MTCC community council has been excluded from the planning and identification of appropriate locations to be considered for homeless services; and

WHEREAS, the ARC, falls within the boundaries of the MTCC, and has been identified as a possible location for a low-barrier homeless shelter by members of the Assembly and MOA; and

WHEREAS, the ARC is in an area with long established quiet neighborhoods, churches, schools, parks, day care centers, alcohol and marijuana outlets and it has become a topic of concern for our community; and

WHEREAS, there are no related homeless services located in subject area required by the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor hosted a town hall meeting at the ARC on March 24, 2023 attended by between 350 – 400 people with most of the testimony opposing any consideration of this site for the proposed purpose; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the ARC site and adjacent land was the topic of many proposals and development plans. The community was heavily involved in crafting a re-zone that would be consistent with the neighboring areas and Anchorage 2020 plans. The land in question was re-zoned with Special Limitations in AO 2008-107. Any new mixed-use development of all this land is required to be a well-planned, integrated development that will expand the ARC Center; have covenants that alert future owners to development guidelines to achieve continuity, and a plat note to make buyers aware that there are special design guideline requirements for the development of this property; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the location, Faith Christian Church, committed to a two-phase development plan that was the negotiated product of the re-zone process, and should be considered the only option for future development at this site; and

WHEREAS, acknowledgement of the existence of special limitations that are already in place and the guidance of community centered planning documents like Anchorage 2020 and the West Side Development plan must happen immediately.

NOW THEREFORE, the current property owner, the Municipality, Assembly, and housing providers like Cook Inlet Housing Authority, should be engaged with the community to find a way forward with Phase II of the development, and leave the ARC in place to serve the community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Midtown Community Council supports the voice of our community to oppose the proposed change in use of the ARC, and encourages all community councils to make their voices heard, by passing similar resolutions, showing up at public hearings and testifying in favor of maintaining previously negotiated zoning decisions.

AND FURTHER RESOLVE THAT criteria must be established by the Assembly with involvement by the community and community councils in addressing homelessness issues and services prior to selection of any location for such facilities/services.

Resolved, this 12 day of April, 2023.

Kristine Stoechner

4-14-23

Kristine Stoechner
Midtown Community Council President

Date

Vote: 11 in favor, and 0 opposed, 1 abstained.