

North Star Community Council

Date: October 10, 2018

To: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Anchorage Assembly
Federation of Community Councils

A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF CONCRETE ACTIONS THE MUNICIPALITY SHOULD TAKE NOW TO STOP ILLEGAL CAMPING

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Charter Article VIII, Section 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; and

WHEREAS, Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of lands within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, North Star Community Council is concerned about the the rising tide of illegal camps within the Municipality, the increase in crime, the safety of residents and the security of their property, along with health and safety risks more closely related to the illegal campers themselves (including but not limited to non-treated human waste, garbage, and risk of fire),

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the Municipality of Anchorage should consider and adopt the following steps to address the problem of illegal camping:

1. Add a public health and safety component to the 2018 Strategic Action Plan of the Anchorage Community Plan to End Homelessness (and all future such plans).
2. Clearly post existing code prohibitions against camping on public lands to enable swift abatement of camps occurring in posted areas.
3. Hire or assign a Parks & Rec code enforcement officer to continuously monitor public spaces to identify illegal camps.
4. Expand APD's CAP (Community Action Policing) team to 7 days/week so illegal camps can be noticed quickly and entrenched encampments cannot be developed.
5. Amend municipal code to allow more efficient "zone" notices in areas of illegal camp concentrations rather than requiring individual notices on each tent/camp.
6. Amend municipal code (AMC 15.20.020.B.15.c.iii) to more narrowly define "personal property" of illegal campers in accord with court guidance to exclude items which deter camp abatement

(generators, collections of propane tanks, etc.)

7. Amend municipal code (AMC 16.120.020) to allow utilization of "cold weather" shelter alternatives year round to assure alternative housing is available for campers displaced by camp abatements and fund more shelter beds if needed.
8. Amend municipal code (AMC 25.70.040.A.2 & 25.70.050 & 25.70.060.O) to allow confiscation of materials used for illegal fires in illegal camps in public space **and** to allow immediate abatement of camps violating fire codes as public safety risks.
9. Enforce existing code prohibitions on open burns and use of cooking appliances and fuels (such as propane stoves, grills, wood stoves) outside of designated areas.
10. Develop an economical and efficient means of storing "personal property" of campers (such as providing 64 gal "bins" to hold property) so camps can be abated & cleaned up without delay using the 72 hour notice process allowed in municipal code (AMC 15.20.020.B.15.b.i).
11. Begin immediately publishing routine and complete reports on all illegal camps identified and actions taken to remove them (including when they were identified, noticed, abated, and cleaned) so Municipal actions are transparent and accountable to citizens. Make the data searchable online by citizens.
12. Establish a comprehensive plan for removing low brush, particularly invasive species, along our trail system to create a more open understory with better sight lines making our green spaces less inviting and encampments harder to hide.

This resolution was approved by the North Star Community Council on October 10, 2018.



Samuel A. Moore
President, North Star Community Council