

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 @ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

632 W. 6th Avenue, Room 155

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- **Welcome & Introductions**

Participants: Silvia Villamides, Jason Motyka, Andrea McCormick, Matt Schultz, Kristine Bunnell, Trevor Bailly, Mark Griffin, Joy Boston, Jim Winegarner, Emma, Jim Renkert, Mike Robbins, Christy Terry, Doug Farris, Steven Callaghan, Mark Begich, Senator Tom Begich, Sheldon Fisher, Terria Ware

- **Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda** – agenda amended. Addition was made to the agenda by Doug Farris – guns fired downtown. Motion was made and seconded. Agenda approved with addition.

- **Approval of September meeting minutes**

Jason Motyka made the motion to approve the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Doug Farris seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting minutes were approved.

- **Reports: 3minute limit**

- **Assembly Report** – Chris Constant and Daniel Vollard – n/a

- **Senate Representative Report** – Tom Begich

-Wrote a letter to administration regarding Mayor’s proposal to use the rec. centers for emergency cold weather shelter. The collaboration with mayor’s office changed the direction. The rec centers will not be considered.

-Debate of Inlet View School – School district received \$90 million of school debt reimbursement money. The intent was for it to be used on Inlet View School. School board is not in agreement with this use. Reaching out to let them know they need to use this money for its intended purpose. Inlet View is the oldest school in the district that has never been repaired.

-Met with superintendent of ASD regarding shortfalls. Stressed importance of ASD asking for the needed funding.

-Retiring in January but will still be involved in the community and will be assuring education bills attained and their application will stand.

- **House of Representative Report** – Zach Fields n/a

- **Mayor’s Office Report** – Portia Erickson n/a

- **Anchorage Police Department** – n/a

- **Anchorage School Board** – n/a

- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Larry Michael n/a

-Silvia Villamides reported ADP hired an executive director which will start with ADP in October.

- **Our Downtown Update** – Kristine Bunnell

- Title 21 Downtown Code. Issuing Public Hearing dates.

Will be holding public workshops along with special workshops for DTCC.

Will have open house with designers & architects.

Have Case number for Planning and Zoning. Dec. 12 going to Planning & Zoning

Commission for public meeting on the code.

-Coming out with meeting dates in the next couple of weeks

○ **Joy Boston** – JBER

- Air Force Recruiting Service's Aim – High Flight Academy application window is open now until November 30. This is an opportunity for high school students age 16-18 to attend a 3-week flight introduction program that includes up to 15 hours of flight instruction. This is a free program and there is no commitment to the Air Force or military. More information at <https://www.recruiting.af.mil/Aim-High-Flight-Academy/>

-The Port of Alaska was awarded \$5.3M grant through the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) for micro grid, battery backup and electrical infrastructure to provide energy resilience to the Port and JBER. DCIP was funded at \$90M for FY2022. More information at <https://oldcc.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip>

-673d Air Base Wing and Anchorage School District reached an agreement to provide active-duty Airmen as supplemental school bus drivers for the installation, started in September for up to 90 days.

-Questions about JBER, email me at joy.boston.2@us.af.mil

○ **ACDA** – Melinda Gant n/a - Mike Robbins reported

-Melinda out of state.

-Winterizing the garages.

-Dedicated extra resources this year for our Christmas program. More lights for all the garages. Additional decorations going up on the top of 7th Ave. and 5th Ave. parking garages.

-Running City of a Million Lights Program again this year. Encouraging residents and businesses to participate.

○ **Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness** – Terria Ware

-Introduced – Miss Emma, manager of MASH on behalf of the Guest House and Aviator.

-Clientele have stayed on at the Guest House.

- Regarding the Guest House, a Memorandum of Agreement not signed yet after 3 months of DTCC requesting it. Guest House will present the MOA at the next meeting.

-Regarding the Guest House, at this point MASH is operating with plan of property management made with 1st Presbyterian Church.

- DTCC has some concerns regarding the Aviator: guests hang outside, sometimes laying on the sidewalk along the Aviator with friends on 3rd and 4th, similar concerns regarding the area around the blue and yellow buildings. Asking for suggestion on how to all work together to keep the area clean.

- Mark Begich informed the members that the Aviator has 24/7 security. They are vigilant about people creating issues around the building. 200 families live there. 3rd Ave. side for smoking. We don't own the blue and yellow buildings. Blue building owners live in CA and just contracted security. Yellow building owners live in HI.

-Aviator contract for sheltering the homeless will continue until April. However, after the first of the year there will be a scaling down. The people will be dispersed elsewhere until the contract ends in April according to Sheldon Fisher.

-Terria Ware reported, regarding food service at the Sullivan. Guests receive two meals a day breakfast and dinner with snacks if needed.

- Miss Emma reported regarding the food service for the Aviator guests. They receive two meals a day. Monday through Friday they are encouraged to go down to The Soup Kitchen for lunch.

Non-profit partner, Henning, provides the food.

-Terria Ware explained that the Guest House is housing so that is the reason why food is not being provided. There are case workers to assist those in need of obtaining food.

-Downtown Hope Center have safety concerns over guests walking from Guest House down the hill in the winter to receive food. Also, safety for those crossing 3rd Ave. with no crosswalk and winter conditions.

- **Continuing Business**

- **Block 102 (8th & D) – ACDA resolution of support**

- Reviewed presentation from last month – asking for resolution of support to present to the Assembly.

- Motion to approve: Doug Farris made the motion to support the resolution. Matt Schultz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **New Business:** 6minute limit

- **Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides

- Oct. 19 meeting

- **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka

- n/a

- **Presentations:** 6minute limit (3minutes – to – speak / 3minutes – for questions)

- None noted

- **Announcements / Neighbor Comments** (2minute limit)

- **Gun Shots Fired Downtown Area** – Doug Farris

- Hand-out “ShotSpotter Technology – Introducing our cutting-edge Precision Policing Platform”. A program that can detect where shots have been fired. This technology uses sensors that can detect the moment and pinpoint the spot a gun is fired. Used in other states.

- This past month there has been gun firing four times in the downtown area

- **Open Discussion**

- Verdaka technology is an open system. It involves cameras that are placed strategically in troubled areas. Able to get live feed and pin-point what is happening. The cameras are open for the police and individuals for live view. Also used in other states.

- interest in finding funding and partners to advocate for these systems and to use them collectively to help curb crime downtown.

- **AK Railroad** – Christy Terry, Director of External Affairs

- Summer Season wrapping up with passengers

- Gravel trucks will be active in the area through October

-Tie replacement will continue until the snow flies

ADJOURN MEETING

Jason Motyka made the motion to adjourn. Doug Farris seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:02