

CAMPBELL PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION THAT RECOGNIZES That the right to freedom of speech is inalienable and any censorship of it is to be denounced emphatically.

WHEREAS, the Campbell Park Community Council is a private, not-for-profit, voluntary, self-governing association composed of residents, property owners, business owners, and representatives from the Campbell Park Community Council neighborhood designated by the Anchorage Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs;

WHEREAS, the Campbell Park Community Council and all of its residents where-in, denounce any and all forms of censorship of lawful speech.

WHEREAS, Community Councils were established in the municipality in order to provide a form of robust debate about issues to the community, neighbors, and individuals who participate and have dialog germane to the area in which they reside.

WHEREAS, in a democracy the system is predicated on robust conversation with the understanding we may not always agree, that policies are best hammered out through sometimes difficult dialog and that policies are settled through the civil process.

WHEREAS, we have 246 years of history the broad majority of which the citizens have figured out how to disagree and maintain civility.

WHEREAS, in a truly free and open society, opposing viewpoints are not shut out from conversation or debate.

WHEREAS, that of late, the conversation has become tense and difficult, often times characterized by censorship of one ideology or another.

WHEREAS, that during the last several years, certain practices have become normalized such as “doxing”, “shadow-banning”, “permabanning”, inflammatory rhetoric, “de-platforming”, gaslighting, purposefully destroying livelihoods, Etc.

WHEREAS, the 1st Amendment to the Constitution of these United States of America states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof; or *abridging* the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of these United States of America have in several cases upheld the fact that “offensive speech” and “hate speech”, while most consider to be in poor taste and is to neither be supported nor encouraged, is not illegal in these United States. Unlawful speech is only considered to be speech that threatens physical harm, incites imminent lawless action(s), and seeks to exploit minor children.

WHEREAS, beloved French writer, historian, and philosopher Voltaire even is quoted as saying “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

WHEREAS, while many places in the United States and across the globe are descending into more and more silencing forms censorship and using censorship tactics (both in offline and online settings), so far in Alaska, for the most part, we have continued to find ways to disagree without resorting to these methods, but instead have used the civil means available to us; such as peaceful protests in public settings, appealing to our representative government to redress our grievances, turning to the courts when those grievances aren't heard; and all the means recognized in our Constitution.

WHEREAS, that despite all of the positive elements present in our community there exists in darker places and within darker motives, threats to our inherent and inalienable rights that are becoming more present in the light.

WHEREAS, that if we in this Community Council, and in fact every Human Being, want to build a more inclusive, diverse, open, transparent and democratic society that embraces our differences, then we have a continual responsibility to ourselves and to each other, our neighbors, families, friends, and loved ones, to listen to each other...even if we don't like what the other is saying; to protecting the right and power of that person to say it, just as we'd want them to do for us.

WHEREAS, The Campbell Park Community Council strongly denounces any and all censorship of lawful speech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR REPUBLIC AND SOVEREIGN AUTHORITIES, DENOUNCES ANY AND ALL CENSORSHIP OF LAWFUL SPEECH NO MATTER THE PERSON OR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY.

The Campbell Park Community Council resolves to support ongoing and robust civic engagement and denounces all lawful speech censorship, blatant or otherwise, and calls on Anchorage residents to remind each other of this as well as continuing to maintain civility with each other in the process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CAMPBELL PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASKS the Anchorage Assembly to pass this as well.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Campbell Park Community Council with a vote of _____ on _____, 20__.

President

Date

Campbell Park Community Council