

South Addition Community Council Resolution 2021-xx
Resolution Supporting Safety Improvements to Earl & Muriel King Park and
Immediate Environs

Whereas, Anchorage is home to over 220 parks; and

Whereas, all residents of Anchorage should freely enjoy the ability to recreate safely in our parks; and

Whereas, the stated mission of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department is “to provide Healthy Parks for Healthy People and a Healthy Future;” and

Whereas the stated goals of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department are to:

- Preserve and maintain our built and natural park assets.
- Provide services for a diverse community and facilitate the widest possible use.
- Promote parks as catalysts for community enhancement.
- Generate public and financial support for a thriving park system.
- Encourage public involvement in the operation and development of our parks.
- Maintain an appropriate balance between open space and developed recreation areas to meet diverse needs; and

Whereas, a park was acquired in 1985, and named for Earl and Muriel King, who owned the property and generously donated a portion of the value to the Municipality of Anchorage, with the intent to create an open play area; and

Whereas, the Anchorage Park Foundation has previously acknowledged that Earl & Muriel King Park is underutilized and that “park neighbors and residents have expressed concerns and frustrations with the negative uses occurring in the park,” and the need to “identify and construct creative solutions to mitigate problems with current negative usage;”¹ and

Whereas, there is a documented history of criminal drug activity and multiple deaths in Earl & Muriel King Park and its immediate environs, including E 12th Avenue, ²; and

¹ CAPSIS Project Number 62856, 2016

² Chris Constant “Another death at King Park”, Anchorage Press, 2020;
Madeline McGee, “Shooting that left woman dead in SUV was drug-related, police say”, ADN, 2019

Whereas, South Addition residents living in proximity to the park and E 12th Ave have brought to the attention of the Community Council serious safety concerns regarding both E 12th Ave and Earl & Muriel King Park, including but not limited to the following:

- Repeated need for calls to 3-1-1 and 9-1-1 to report disruptive or criminal activity
- Trash regularly observed in the park, including needles, syringes, and other drug paraphernalia
- Lack of adequate street lighting on E 12th Ave
- Lack of adequate lighting in the park
- Underdevelopment of highly trafficked E 12th Ave, which notably includes an abrupt dead end at the park perimeter with no turning circle
- Lack of parking due to rampant car-camping and engine idling on E 12th Ave;

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that South Addition Community Council respectfully requests that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department consider, in a timely manner, solutions which will make Earl & Muriel King Park more safe for all users, including but not limited to 1) more adequate park lighting, 2) a maintained and serviced trash can near the dead end of E 12th Ave, and 3) the initiation of a serious planning effort, with input from resident neighbors in an open and transparent public process, to reimagine design and usage of the park in ways that facilitate wider and more regular use (e.g. community gardens); and

BE IT RESOLVED, South Addition Community Council respectfully requests that the Municipality of Anchorage Traffic Department conduct a traffic study to improve the development and safety of E 12th Ave., and include in its consideration 1) more adequate street lighting, 2) construction of a turning circle/cul-de-sac featuring 'No Parking' signage, of a similar design to that on W 12th Ave where it approaches A St; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that South Addition Community Council encourages the Anchorage Community Development Authority Parking Services Department to consider the establishment and administration of a residential parking zone with permitted parking restrictions along E 12th Ave; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that South Addition Community Council requests the paving of the alleyway between E 11th Ave and E 12th Ave, which runs parallel to E 11th Ave and connects Cordova to A Street; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that South Addition Community Council encourages People Mover to request capital funds for the installation of a bench at the A street bus stop next to King Park, of a design that would provide comfortable seating for bus riders but which would discourage lying down or sleeping.

I certify that the South Addition Community Council duly adopted this resolution at a meeting held on _____.

Moirra Gallagher, President
South Addition Community Council

Date

With a quorum present, I certify that the vote was _____ in favor, _____ against, _____ abstain.

Ruth Ann Jennings, Secretary
South Addition Community Council

Date