

FVCC Draft Resolution

Fairview Recreation Center: Opposition to immediate and future use as homeless shelter.

9/8/2022

A resolution of the Fairview Community Council opposing the current administration's plan to close the Fairview recreation center and utilize it as a homeless shelter beginning September 29th and **demanding** use of this facility as a community resource for the winter season, 2022

Whereas the members of the Fairview Community Council unanimously identified homelessness, and the individuals who predate on the homeless and at-risk people, as the biggest issue facing our neighborhood today, and

Whereas the Municipality of Anchorage has had a long-standing unwritten policy to unfairly concentrate its homeless services in Fairview, and

Whereas the utilization of the Fairview recreation center as an emergency winter shelter contradicts the current scattered site homelessness plan being facilitated by the administration and Assembly, and

Whereas the Assembly and Mayor have both communicated a commitment to creating a more distributed approach to providing homeless services, and

Whereas the current administration has fast tracked without due process and community input, the immediate use of the Fairview recreation center as a homeless shelter, and

Whereas the impacts of a homeless shelter housing individuals in the heart of the Fairview community has not been properly studied or considered, and

Whereas the Fairview recreation center is one of the only community resources available to children and low-income families in the area, and

Whereas the Fairview recreation center is home to Alaska's only all-inclusive **indoor** playground which many children including special needs children from around the State currently enjoy the use of, and

Whereas the Fairview recreation center is Fairview's only polling place, necessary to bolster civic engagement and voter's rights in a historically disenfranchised and underrepresented community, and

Whereas several recent deaths in the streets of Fairview due to subpar road conditions and lack of proper street maintenance and development contradicts a decision to concentrate additional homeless individuals adjacent to the Seward Glen highway arterials, and

Whereas adjacent and nearby businesses oppose the use of the Fairview recreation center as a homeless shelter due to decades of negative impacts and long-term area-wide disinvestment caused by the municipality's concentration of services in Fairview, and

Whereas the Fairview recreation Center unifies the Fairview community and strengthens its communal sense of place, and closing it would have many negative social and economic consequences, and

Whereas the administration's previous facilitation and management of the emergency shelter located at the Sullivan Arena failed to demonstrate a community minded approach including the humane treatment of those in need of services and shelter, and

Be it further resolved that the Fairview Community Council adamantly opposes the use of the Fairview recreation center as an emergency shelter or homeless shelter of any kind, now and in the future.

Voted on by the membership of the Fairview Community Council, this 8th of September 2022

SJ Klein. Acting Chair