

## **Fairview Community Council**

### **A Resolution Regarding Current and Future use of Sullivan Arena as a Mass Cold Weather Shelter and Addressing Neighborhood Impacts**

#### **Resolution 2023-01**

Whereas, care for the homeless and providing emergency shelter are the responsibility of the Municipality of Anchorage, and

Whereas, the Municipality has utilized the Brother Francis Shelter and Beans Café complex as low barrier shelters for the homeless for the last 40 years, and

Whereas, these low barrier shelters are located within the community of Fairview, along with the Anchorage Jail, Sleep-off Center and Karluk manor, the Hope Center and the nearby Guest House, and

Whereas, the Fairview community served as emergency shelter for the homeless at the Fairview Community Recreation Center and the Sullivan Arena in addition to the Brother Francis Shelter complex during the Covid 19 pandemic, and

Whereas, the Fairview community witnessed a significant increase in negative off-site impacts, especially in the neighborhood surrounding the Sullivan Arena mass homeless shelter, and

Whereas, the Administration agreed to permanently close the Sullivan Arena as a homeless shelter by June 30, 2022, and

Whereas, the Administration closed the Sullivan Arena on June 30, 2022 without a permanent plan for those using the Sullivan, and

Whereas, the Administration has not yet brought the Golden Lion or the proposed Navigation Center at Tudor and Elmore online and the Aviator Hotel is decreasing capacity, and

Whereas, the Administration reopened the Sullivan Arena Mass Cold Weather Shelter without public input as a 200 bed low barrier shelter, and

Whereas, \$400,000 was appropriated by the Assembly to immediately address impacts currently being experienced, and no action was taken to utilize those funds for the safety and security of the Fairview neighborhood, and

Whereas, the contractor for the Sullivan Arena was using a “warming area” to house up to an additional 160 individuals without basic services, and

Whereas, the Administration requested and the Assembly increased, the Sullivan Arena capacity from 200 to 360 without addressing the issues and concerns that the Fairview community member and businesses have expressed in writing to the Administration and to the Assembly, and

Whereas, the contractor for the Sullivan Arena reports that they are now housing 360 individuals, as well as another 40-100 or more in the “warming area”, and

Whereas, criminal activity, APD callouts, emergency services call outs, vagrancy, begging, trash and homeless camps have dramatically increased with each increase in capacity of the Sullivan Arena as Mass Shelter, and

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Whereas, the Fairview community has made multiple requests for services to address the Health and Safety of the surrounding residents, business owners, and those staying in and around the Sullivan Arena complex, and

Whereas, Fairview Business owners and community members have taken it upon themselves to clean up trash, patrol and report criminal activities and medical emergencies, paint over graffiti, perform CPR, administer NarCan, call in illegal camps and cars, and

Whereas, Fairview Businesses and community members have incurred damages and repair costs that far exceed any savings the Municipality has realized by not addressing these issues, and

Whereas, the Fairview Community Council has asked for increased patrols on the Chester Creek Greenway due to its use by the homeless and the declining sense of public safety, and

Whereas, the Anchorage Police Department has reported that they have given the Administration a proposal to patrol the Chester Creek Greenbelt, and

Whereas,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairview Community Council requests a formal meeting with the Municipal Administration to discuss external impacts being experienced around the Sullivan Arena and along the Gambell-Ingra Street Corridor along with solutions for those left unhoused when it closes at the end of the 2022-2023 winter season, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the operators of the Sullivan Arena, or other appropriate agencies, begin immediate and regular 24/7 public service patrols of the area between the Chester Creek Greenbelt and 12th Avenue, and Juneau Street to C Street for the purposes of collecting trash, handle medical emergency events, deal with illegal activities and maintain the exterior of the Sullivan and Ben Boeke facilities, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Fairview Community Council believes that the mental health resources available to individuals served by the Sullivan Arena are grossly insufficient to meet the need, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Fairview Community Council calls on the Municipal Administration in partnership with the Municipality Assembly and engaged stakeholder groups to work together on a viable solution to closure of the Sullivan Arena as a Mass Shelter no later than March 31, 2023 with a plan in place for those left unhoused, specifically the troublesome individuals, when the Shelter closes so that Fairview and other surrounding communities do not become overwhelmed by homeless camps again, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Fairview Community Council requests that security patrols continue for at least 3 months following the closure of the Sullivan Arena as a mass shelter, in order to protect individuals seeking help and the neighborhood from people who have established patterns of predation and bad behavior that linger after the facility closes, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Fairview Community Council believes no plan for the homeless can succeed without smaller, scattered-site projects with an emphasis on the unique needs of each segment of the homeless

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population and their distribution throughout the Anchorage Bowl, and that development of such plans should be the highest priority for the Administration.

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Allen Kemplen – President, Fairview Community Council