

LAI-ON-THE-TABLE

Submitted by: Assembly Member Rivera
Prepared by: Sanctioned Camp Community
Task Force
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: May 23, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-_____**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
A PLAN FOR SANCTIONED CAMPS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ANCHORAGE**

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane resting space is necessary for a person to lead a healthy, productive life; and

WHEREAS, lack of resting space incurs a great cost upon both the individuals involved and society at large; and

WHEREAS, AMC 25.70.040.A.1 prohibits camping on municipal land and AMC 8.45.010 prohibits trespass on both public and private land, which creates no legal place for individuals to remain overnight, or during a full 24-hour period; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality does not currently fund or maintain a permanent, general-population emergency shelter following the closure of the Sullivan Area on May 1, 2023, and will no longer maintain an emergency shelter for the remaining 90 individuals with complex needs as of May 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, people can become unhoused because they experience a combination of addiction, mental illness and poverty; or due to a work-related or other serious accident, inability to pay a medical or vehicle expense, job loss, divorce or separation; loss of supportive family or friends, or other life circumstances; and

WHEREAS, unhoused people in Anchorage, by necessity because of lack of adequate housing or shelter space, are currently finding somewhere to live in our green spaces, parks, open spaces and undeveloped parcels; and

WHEREAS, living unsheltered in Anchorage's challenging climate and environmental conditions throughout the year has a profoundly negative social, environmental, public health and community impact; and

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane supported shelter areas significantly reduce these impacts; and

WHEREAS, living unsheltered requires a person to enter survival mode, dramatically restricts a person's ability to meet their physical and mental needs, gain employment or attain the personal identification needed to access existing services; and

1 **WHEREAS**, when previously unhoused people have sanitary, secure and humane
2 sanctioned shelter, with structure and support, they have the energy and time to
3 access services and move their lives forward; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize that the population experiencing
6 homelessness has a diversity of needs, including mental health and substance
7 misuse needs, and as much as possible those needs should be considered during
8 the planning of sanctioned camps, emergency shelter, and other services; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, sanctioned camps are an imperfect solution and should be seen as a
11 pathway to housing and other needed supports, yet are far preferable to the
12 unsanctioned, unsanitary, and environmentally-damaging encampments now
13 impacting green spaces and neighborhoods throughout the Municipality; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, sanctioned camps are not classified as shelter and will have no impact
16 on decisions made by the Municipality on abatement; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, although the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force has not
19 completed its work, the task force, in order to get the various necessary Municipal
20 processes moving forward, put forward the below immediate needs
21 recommendations, with a final report due on July 6 which will provide additional
22 planning information to support these efforts.
23

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**
25

26 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly supports amending AMC 25.70.040.A.1 to
27 allow Municipally sanctioned camps at some or all the Municipally owned locations
28 listed in the sections below based on feasibility. In addition, the Anchorage
29 Assembly supports requesting the landowners of the privately owned locations
30 listed in the sections below consider the feasibility of setting up sanctioned camps
31 on their property.
32

33 **Section 2.** The Anchorage Assembly requests all community councils to provide us
34 with their preferred location for 1) a sanctioned camp site and/or 2) emergency
35 shelter by July 1.
36

37 **Section 3.** The Municipality shall ensure that, whether through community
38 assistance or direct funding, the following services for individuals at the locations
39 listed in the sections below are available:

- 40 • regular clinical and support services as determined by need of the
- 41 population staying at each camp
- 42 • potable water
- 43 • sanitation
- 44 • harm reduction, to include sharps containers and Narcan
- 45 • electricity
- 46 • food
- 47 • gathering space
- 48 • accessible by all providers, i.e. an open campus

- 1 • security, to include adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife
- 2 and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry
- 3 and exit points
- 4 • action and mitigation oriented good neighbor agreement between
- 5 providers and nearby community councils
- 6 • raised canopies of 6 to 8 feet for any wooded campsites
- 7 • Wi-fi or other internet accessibility
- 8 • Structural support for tents, to include wooden pallets or other
- 9 platforms to allow tents to be off the ground and adequate rain
- 10 protection
- 11 • Fire suppression devices will be available on each camp site
- 12 • Animal deterrents will be available on each camp site
- 13 • Mitigation of off-site impacts
- 14 • As appropriate, a women's, families with children, or other vulnerable
- 15 populations only designated area should be considered

16 **Section 4.** The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration to ask for 9
17 Anchorage School District relocatable or portable buildings to be used as described
18 in the sections below and to bring forward an Assembly Resolution for consideration
19 to allow for the Municipality to accept these assets. In addition, we request the
20 Municipal administration to complete a structural review of these facilities to
21 determine their condition and choose the 9 most ready for habitation and usage.
22 Finally, we request the administration bring forward an ordinance to allow these
23 structures to be used as outlined in the sections below.

24
25 **Section 5.** The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration bring forward an
26 appropriation document for consideration to acquire up to 90 Pallet Shelters as a
27 sole source purchase from Pallet.

28
29 **Section 6.** The Anchorage Assembly request the administration ask Habitat for
30 Humanity, the State Department of Corrections, and any other interested parties to
31 construct tiny homes to be used as described in the sections below and to bring
32 forward an Assembly Resolution for consideration to allow for the Municipality to
33 accept these assets. In addition, we request the administration bring forward an
34 ordinance to, specific only to tiny homes within sanctioned camp sites, temporarily
35 waive any Title 21, Land Use, and Title 23, Building Safety, requirements which
36 would hinder the usage of these structures.

37
38 **Section 7.** The Anchorage Assembly requests support from community members,
39 advocacy and civic groups, non-profit and philanthropic organizations, and for-profit
40 businesses to reduce the burden of the Municipality so we may prioritize our limited
41 resources on both the 2023-2024 Emergency Cold Weather Winter Plan and
42 standing up a new permanent year-round low-barrier shelter as outlined in AR 2023-
43 97, As Amended, a resolution adopting the Clean Slate Strategy.

44
45 **Section 8.** The Anchorage Assembly respectfully requests landowners with large
46 vacant or unused parking lots to consider sponsoring a sanctioned camp site.

47
48 **Section 9.** The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration put out a quick-

1 turnaround RFP or waive Title 7 requirements to solicit providers for sanctioned
2 camps. No more than two sanctioned camp locations should be managed by a
3 single provider.
4

5 **Section 10.** In District 5, East Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of
6 Centennial Park Campground as a sanctioned camp under the following
7 parameters:

- 8 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 9 • Start date of May 31, 2023
- 10 • Closure date of September 4, 2023, which is the traditional closure
11 date of the campground
- 12 • Tents should be limited only to established campsites
- 13 • Serve a single adult population
- 14 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports to begin and
15 transition to an intentional camp
- 16 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or
17 as office space
18

19 **Section 11.** In District 6, South Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of 1805
20 Academy as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 21 • 20 to 40 individuals
- 22 • Start date of May 31, 2023
- 23 • Year-round operation or until such time as the building can no
24 longer be occupied
- 25 • Serve as a transition for individuals currently staying at the Sullivan
26 Arena who do not have a plan come May 31, 2023
- 27 • Run as low barrier location with structured supports
- 28 • Make use of 10 of the rooms in the building for habitation
- 29 • Up to 2 ASD relocatable buildings placed on site to be used for
30 habitation or for service providers
31

32 **Section 12.** In District 3, West Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the
33 land around the Clitheroe Center as a sanctioned camp under the following
34 parameters:

- 35 • 30 to 40 individuals
- 36 • Start date of May 31, 2023
- 37 • Closure date of September 1, 2024
- 38 • Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in the
39 parking lot or in tents on land around the facility
- 40 • Building should not be used for habitation
- 41 • Serve a single adult population
- 42 • Run as a dry, or non-substance use, location
- 43 • Plan for transportation needs considering the distance of this
44 location
- 45 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or
46 as office space
47

48 **Section 13.** In District 4, Midtown Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of

1 the vacant land at 40th Ave and Denali, the former National Archives site, as a
2 sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 3 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 4 • Start date of June 19, 2023
- 5 • Closure date of September 1, 2024
- 6 • Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in a
7 designated space or in tents, and transition to Pallet Shelters and
8 tiny homes
- 9 • Serve a single adult population
- 10 • Run as a low barrier location
- 11 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or
12 as office space

13
14 **Section 14.** In District 1, North Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the
15 vacant land that was formerly Viking Drive from Reeve Blvd to Commercial Drive as
16 a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:

- 17 • 50 to 75 individuals
- 18 • Start date of May 31, 2023
- 19 • Closure date of August 1, 2023
- 20 • Tents only
- 21 • Serve a single adult population
- 22 • Run as a low barrier location
- 23 • 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site, if feasible, for service
24 providers or as office space

25
26 **Section 15.** The Municipality 1) supports requesting Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)
27 consider the land at C St and 100th Ave as a sanctioned camp in District 3, West
28 Anchorage, 2) supports requesting Pacific Northern Academy consider the usage
29 of the land around the former Alaska Native Charter School at 550 Bragaw as a
30 sanctioned camp in District 1, North Anchorage, and 3) supports requesting the
31 State of Alaska consider the usage of the Eagle River Campground as a sanctioned
32 camp in District 2, Eagle River / Chugiak.

33
34 **Section 16.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and
35 approval by the Assembly.

36
37 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
38 of _____, 2023.

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40
41
42 _____
43 Chair of the Assembly

44 ATTEST:

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46
47 _____
48 Municipal Clerk
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