




## MEETING SUMMARY

Project: MOA Sanctioned Camp Task Force  
Project No: 235049  
Meeting Date: June 1, 2023  
Location: MOA Mayor's Conference Room

Attendees: Tony J Andrew, Community Member  
Michael Hughes, Anchorage Health Department  
Silvia Villamides, Alaska Hospitality Retailers, Downtown CC  
Caroline Storm, Great Alaska Schools, Community Member  
Dave Kuiper, Community Member  
Eric Glatt, Community Member  
Kris Stoehner, Community Member  
Dylan Faber, Community Member  
Charles Welch, Community Member  
Michael Fredericks, SALT  
Zach Johnson, Anchorage Assembly  
Felix Rivera, Assembly Member  
Ron Alleva, Community Member  
Diane Shenker, Community Member  
David Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services  
Karen Bronga, Anchorage Assembly  
Andrew Gray, Alaska State House  
Anna Brawley, Assembly  
Mike Priso, Community Member  
Jean Miller, Showered in Grace First United Methodist Church  
Jason Leonardis, Cook Inlet Soccer Club  
Lt. Col. Doug Tollerud, The Salvation Army  
Luke Brendan,  
Amy Morgan, SALT  
Andy Bartel, First and St. John United Methodist Church  
Amy Solberg, Muni Staff  
Georgina Fernandez, Alaska News Source  
Betty Hertz, Community Member  
Randy Salt, Anchorage Assembly  
Emily Goodykoontz, Anchorage Daily News  
Belinda, Community Member



Michele Brown, Rasmuson Foundation  
Susan Soule, Community Member  
Yarrow Silvers, Clean Slate  
Roger Branson, Community Member  
Sharon Chamard, UAA Justice Center – Safety Security Group  
Cynthia Newton, Community Member

Attachments:   A    Meeting Agenda  
                  B    Meeting Presentation  
                  C    Sign-In Sheet

The purpose of the meeting is to review the resolution of immediate actions presented to the Anchorage Assembly and allow for comments to the resolution. The following items were discussed:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the room and online to introduce themselves.

2. RESOLUTION REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

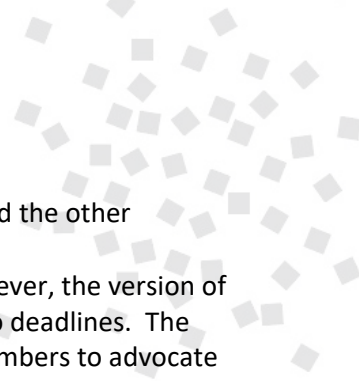
Share and review the revised resolution since the last meeting. No copies were provided, text was shared on the screen with all participants.

- Overview of updates shared with attendees
  - Section 1- private land owners named in Section 15 removed
  - Section 2 - additional 2 weeks added to timeline
  - Section 4 - changed number of relocatables from 9 to “up to 6”
  - Section 10 - updated start date to June 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Section 15 - struck and amended specific land owners
- Comments to the Changes (all speakers limited to two minutes)
  - Community Council would like to know what protection is in place surrounding the Cuddy Area, there is nothing in the resolution for fencing in/out.
    - Response: Section 3 speaks to concern, with bullet point in security and adequate fencing – an expectation of minimum standards.
    - An Assembly Ordinance is being developed for safety in sanctioned camping, with the Task Force recommendations being included.
  - Dylan Faber with Matson offers support in any way they can, whether it be in support of transporting pallet shelters or otherwise.
  - Dylan Faber with Cook Inlet Soccer Club shares concern of the sanctioned camp located off Vanguard Drive due to proximity of kids in the soccer programs, 1,000 kids on site Monday – Thursday within 100 yards of proposed camp. Looking for security and consideration of the kids, potentially including security contract to prevent camp activity from bleeding over towards soccer area.
    - Response (Andy Bartel): Area would look different as it is housing instead of sanctioned camping.

- Response (Felix Rivera): Refer to section 11, utilize 10 rooms in the building with 2 relocatables in the parking lot. Despite it being “hidden” inside, there still needs to be proper mitigation to deal with concerns.
- Ron Alleva – Lives in property next to shelter, wants to offer for sale or lease for sanctioned camp due to proximity of navigation center. Sent proposal to Felix, and shared location with David Rittenberg. Believes they can adequately handle and support the needs.
- Dianne Shanker – Community Council was never informed of this until hours prior to last meeting and is not representing her Community Council. Would like to understand why community council was named as a stakeholder, but not adequately included. Would also like to recommend this starts over to address safety to the community.
  - Response (Felix Rivera): This is a community task force; all community members were invited to attend. Cannot say how all Assembly Members worked with their respective Community Councils, but he spoke with all 9 of his individually to notify and bring awareness of the task force and the provision of inclusion has been met.
  - Response: The task force for the Sanctioned Camps were open for anyone in the community can attend. Additionally, there is the Clean Slate group, which has been structured with two representatives. Happy to let her know where the meetings are being held.
    - Diane – Concerned about the lack of structure in the open task force, and creates an unfair representation
  - Response (Susan Soule) – Their last Community Council meeting is in May, and will be sending a letter out to let members know about Academy Drive, and request input on security. Feels there are ways to still engage the community.
  - Response – Community Councils are vital in bringing people to engage in the local government, however they are an advisory to the assembly. It is incumbent on Community Councils to be proactive. There were press releases and put out the information to allow anyone who wants to be involved. Cannot always be a handholding for community councils. There have been hours of time spent for all community members and feels this is an unfair conversation to bring up. Talk about this at the FCC meeting, but we need to move forward in this conversation.
- Randy – question on Academy Drive location, understanding was for overnight camping until an associated project is started and then would be no longer usable.
  - Response: Section 11, written with understanding that this building may be demolished and that would end the occupancy. There is a temporary solution for folks staying at Sullivan, may transfer to Academy and needs to be vetted before Tuesday.
- Eric Glatt – Did we discuss budget for this? Associated Press reported similar camps in Portland Oregon were set up for \$27M, this needs to be addressed.
- Eric Glatt - Second question there are some verbal assurances, and legal analysis in Boise and Grants Pass would preclude the Muni from determining when they can abate non-sanctioned camp sites, however this is shaky. If we create sanctioned campsites, it needs to be explicitly clear that the Muni Shall not treat that as permission to abate non-sanctioned campsites and in effect create designated detention centers.

- Yarrow Silvers - Speaking with their Community Council for Clean Slate, concerns over areas that are heavily treed, they are trying to provide safe sleeping sites, not recreate traditional camping. Best places for this are parking lots and high visibility areas. Suggesting ASD Admin Building parking lot, Land around Walmart / Fred Meyer, LIO Parking Lot.
  - Response (Felix): Section 8 – requesting private land owners, with large vacant or unused parking lots. Please send list of ideas to him for to pass along for implementation if resolution is passed.
  - Response – Forested areas are not safe areas; Northway mall is a giant empty structure we should be looking at. Such an opportunity for the parking lot
- David Rittenberg – Any Sanctioned Camp needs to be dedicated staffed to make it safe. Does not see anything specifically called out for staffing, point of entry. Is this something that needs to be added, obviously impacts budget.
  - Response (Felix): Section 9 – discusses quick RFP turnarounds or waive Title 7 to staff sanctioned camps, depending on how many sanctioned camps are established, did not want any more than 2 camps to be managed by single provider. Additionally, Whereas statement addresses that the work is not completed with this resolution, this is to address immediate needs only.
- Andrew Gray – Frist wanted to comment on concentration camp aspect, and appreciate not wanting to abate one camp and forcing someone to go to another camp. If I was newly homeless, I would appreciate knowing there was a place I could go and have access to a bathroom and services. Are there any people with lived experience, or opinions of homeless people been included – would they want to go to the sanctioned camps?
  - Response (Felix): Roger Branson, can speak to this. Roger – difficult to have a self-directed community agree in a legitimate and democratically agree on where they would choose to go.
    - Additionally, 4 others with lived experience have been included
  - Response (Felix): Specific to the numbers, the Anchorage Coalition to end Homelessness – estimates 700 unsheltered in the community with roughly 203 housing units coming online June / July. Sanctioned Camps estimated 300 individuals who would participate in sanctioned camps the remaining who would not choose to go to the sanctioned camp.
- Andrew Gray – Secondarily with abatement, a person at the VA stated sometimes they have a hard time finding tracking down a homeless veteran without a phone, but can find them when they are abated. Sometimes, abatement can provide access to services and people who are looking for them can find them.
- Caroline – To address, why aren't we just providing housing? Housing takes a lot longer to design, permit, etc. The crisis is now, and we need to have a solution now with the Sanctioned Camps.
- Betsy Baker – Have learned a lot, and appreciates the work the assembly is doing to address long term ideas. Feels that there is opportunity to share more of the long-term plan.
  - Response (Eric Glatt) – Committee working on housing and homelessness, almost exclusively federal funding, that was covid federal funding that is now ending. However, this is a pre-existing crisis that the community has been ignoring for decades.
- Jason Leonardis – Concerned about 1,000 kids aged 2-18 at the park, needs to reiterate if this goes forward are the kids going to be safe.

- Lt. Col. – Ran Centennial camp last year, did Case management for 350 – 400 people with 70% needed mental health assessments. This is a drug and alcohol problem, only 30% are non-users. Supportive of whatever they can do to help. The Salvations Army has over 125 years in Alaska, politically we have to have the bravery to step in and deal with this – is called clean and sober. Understands housing first, but needs to address the issues that get the people to this point. This should be a temporary solution, but we need to work together to save these people from themselves.
- Randy – this started as a way to recognize the camps that are formed and getting them basic needs and is growing into a larger conversation.
  - Response – is it worth considering adding a section about Mountain View Park, one of the larger encampments currently. Instead of disrupting them, is there a way to provide wash stations and barriers?
  - Response (Felix) – at all established camps, there are port-a-pottys and dumpsters. When the task force started at talking about immediate needs, they went through the established camps to determine the viability of sanctioning the established camps based on a variety of reasons.
- Three Specific Examples – 1. Man who lives at Cuddy Park has everything he has to live in the van, but cannot communicate well and isn't sure about resources or lists 2. A second man who is deaf and needs more help, to get to appointments. 3. Saw someone OD'ing. This is real, and these are real people
- Are there cross-references to the other task forces in the resolution. A reference in the resolution may be helpful.
- Sharon Chamard - Wants to address the fear of homelessness and kids, homelessness and crime are not really correlated. People experiencing homeless are much more likely to be victimized than be offenders. There may be petty crime or survival crime, but low level, they will not be attacking children.
  - Response: Lets rely on the data for increase in crime near shelters
  - Response (Sharon): It is an illusion that children will be at risk playing soccer, the data may show increased petty crime, but is usually within the homeless community not the general public.
  - Response (Ron): Him and daughter was exposed to sexual assaults and attacks, he has witnessed several violent sexual acts, daughter is still in fear. Anyone who is next to a sanctioned camp should act for protection. They will overflow and affect everyone.
  - Response: Children seeing and being exposed to learning and developing next to sanctioned may struggle more, be more distracted. Parents will choose to play in an alternative and safer location
- Tony Andrew – removed private companies from the list, Mayor is proposing funding for Tudor and Elmore site. This is a good location, East and Midtown boundaries. Wants to encourage assembly to look at structure as a long-term option.
- Michael Branif – Davis Park and the Snow Dump across the street belong to JBER. JBER has expectations that we will do something that meets the lease to address what happens on the property. Not looking to abate broadly, but will require some abatement. Davis Park is important to the community and be able to lease the park. The snow dump is extremely important based on the route and clearance.
- Motion to move to separate pallet structures from this resolution to a separate resolution. Believes this sanctioned camp resolution will take too long to pass.



- Discussion: By separating, if the pallet shelters are bought and the other resolution fails, they may remain in storage.
- Response (Felix): Appreciate the motion and discussion, however, the version of the resolution presented will be on the Assembly floor due to deadlines. The best path forward for this is to reach out to the assembly members to advocate for the separation during the meeting.

### 3. UPCOMING ASSEMBLY WORKSESSION

Michael Fredericks reviews the upcoming work session to run through the resolution, and support answers to questions that may come up. This is an open meeting; everyone is allowed to attend.

1. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:50 – 12:50 pm – City Hall 155
2. 3-4 Task Force Members to Participate – at least 6 people indicated they would attend.

### 3. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS

Small groups have been meeting and they will continue to work together to finalize the recommendations following the below schedule. All those involved in Immediate Action group, they can disburse into these other groups – encouraged attendees to provide their name on the sign-in sheet for clarity in information delivery.

1. June 8<sup>th</sup>: Support Services Recommendations Presentation
  - a. Leader is not available on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Switched dates with Safety and Security.
2. June 15<sup>th</sup>: Safety and Security Recommendations Presentation
  - a. Need leader identified for this group, participant volunteered.
3. June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Planning and Design Recommendations Presentation
4. June 29<sup>th</sup>: Operations and Management Recommendations Presentation
  - a. Asking other groups to attached proposed budget in their presentations
5. Dates remain the same, but times will vary.

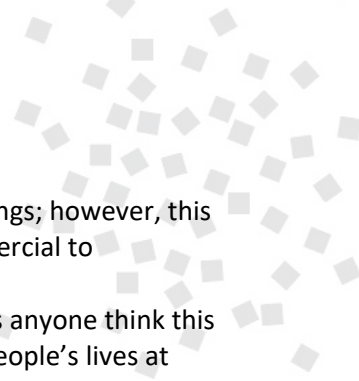
### 6. NEXT STEPS

1. June 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting – Resolution Vote – no public hearing
  - a. Please reach out to assembly to support / lack of support for this resolution
2. Initial Recommendation Compilation 6/2
3. Meeting Summary and Agendas out on Monday
4. Next Meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:30 PM - Muni
  - a. You should be invited through a calendar invite, please reach out to Amy if you do not have an invitation.

### 7. OPEN DISCUSSION

With 10 minutes remaining, the floor was opened for general conversation.

- With regard to Academy Drive – encourage fully vetting the facility, space, there are ways to mitigate the potential concerns in using that building.
- Felix – Will repeat at the assembly meeting, but wants to ensure that this was crafted in a way that locations in the resolution may not be feasible.
- Task Force needs to be prepared to continue work regardless of the direction of the resolution. The problem with buying pallet shelters in advance, could get bogged down and they end up in storage.
- Cynthia Newton - Why is it acceptable for us to discuss allowing homeless individuals in tents, versus looking into the open commercial buildings that are underutilized? Money should be targeted to vacant buildings.

- 
- Response (Felix) – Assembly is discussing how to transition empty buildings; however, this will take more time due to Title 21 and Title 23 to transition from commercial to residential.
  - Diane Shenker – Assuming budget is now less than operating Sullivan Arena, does anyone think this will come in under cost? Would argue that it shouldn't be based on cost due to people's lives at stake.
    - Response (Michael) – Health department did very rough estimate of urban alchemy model for rough ballpark estimate on cost.
  - If you are new to group, please include email address to the sign-in sheet to obtain all information
  - Eric Glatt – when the Task Force, recommends something it is the majority of people that is voted to move on to assembly. Believe that if you oppose something that was put forward, those should still have a say.
  - Caroline – As an architect, and with a civil engineer in the room, its unfortunate that the we live by code and it will be expensive and time consuming to upgrade from commercial to residential space. Thank you all from attending.

The information contained herein represents our understanding of items discussed and decisions made at this meeting. We will assume this summary is correct unless notice to the contrary is brought to our attention within seven (7) days of the date of this summary.

SALT

Prepared by: Michael Fredericks

cc: all attendees



## Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce Agenda

**June 1, 2023**

1:00pm – 2:30 pm

632 W 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Mayors Conference Room

### **TASKFORCE ROLES**

Assembly Lead: Assembly Member Felix Rivera

- Taskforce Member Communications

Co-Conveners: Silvia Villamides and Caroline Storm

- Meeting Hosts/Chair
- Agenda Development

Tech and Access: Amy Solberg (amy.solberg@anchorageak.gov)

- Meeting Technology
- Legislative Assistance

Facilitator: Michael Fredericks

- Agenda Development
- Meeting Facilitation
- Recommendation Report Development

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS**

- Respect each other and our time together
- Silence your telephones, respect the presenter/speaker
- Limiting comments/responses/thoughts to 2 minutes

### **3. INTRODUCTIONS**

### **4. RESOLUTION REVIEW & DISCUSSION**

### **5. UPCOMING ASSEMBLY WORKSESSION**

- June 2 10:50 – 12:50pm – City Hall 155
- 3-4 Task Force Members to participate

### **6. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS**

- June 8: Support Services Recommendations Presentation
- June 15: Safety and Security Recommendations Presentations
- June 22: Planning and Design Recommendations Presentation
- June 29: Operations and Maintenance Recommendations Presentations



**7. NEXT STEPS**

- a. June 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting – Resolution Vote

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

# Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce

June 1, 2023

# Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS
3. INTRODUCTIONS
4. RESOLUTION REVIEW AND DISCUSSION
5. UPCOMING ASSEMBLY WORKSESSION
6. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS
7. NEXT STEPS
8. ADJOURNMENT

# Meeting Expectation

- ▶ Respect each other and our time together
- ▶ Silence your cell phones, respect the presenter/speaker
- ▶ Limit comments/responses/thoughts to 2 minutes

# Upcoming Assembly Work Sessions

June 2, 10:50 – 12:50pm – City Hall 155

Need 3-4 Task Force Members to participate

# Remaining Meeting Process

- June 8: Supportive Services Recommendations
- June 15: Safety and Security Recommendations
- June 22: Planning and Design + Site and Location Recommendations
- June 29: Operations and Maintenance Recommendations

# Next Steps/Actions Items

- ▶ June 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting - Resolution Voting
- ▶ Initial Recommendation Compilation 6/2
- ▶ Meeting Summary and Agendas out Mondays
- ▶ Next meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 - Muni

ADJOURNMENT



# SIGN LN

## ORGANIZATION

### NAME

Rev Andy Batef

Sem Miller showeredingracea@gmail.com

LAQUITA CHMIELOWSKI lchmielowski@dwl.com DWL

Alexis Johnson

Betsy Baker

Diane Schenker

Roger Branson

Sharon Chamard - Safety & Security group

SANDRA MIEROP SANDI514@YAHOO.COM 514

Cyrenthia Newton forhisgbr4@qci.net

First & St John United Methodist Church

Showered in Grace  
First United Methodist Church

AHD

community member

Community member

Community member

Comm. member

"

"

SIGN IN

Name

Lt Col. Doug Tollerud

Charlie Welch

Dave Kuiper

Susan Soule

Eric Glatt

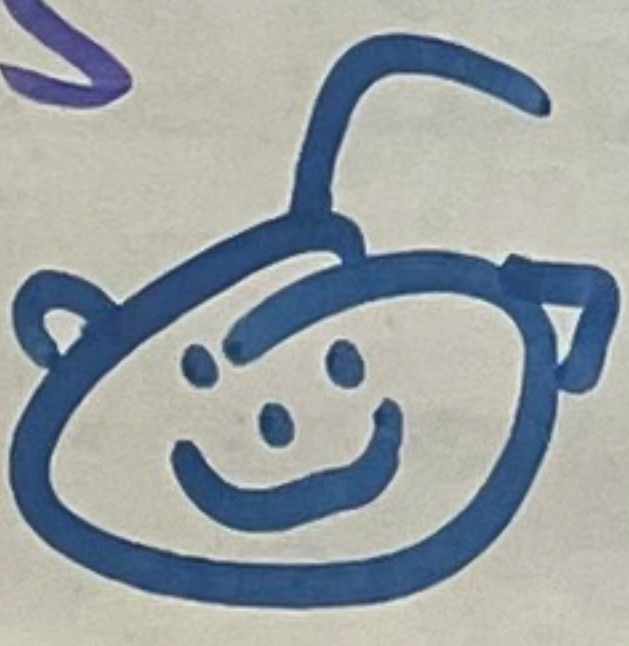
Michael Hughes

Jay Rendon

Tony J. Andrew

Dave Rittenberg

Silvia Villamides

Ron Allwe 

Jason Leonardis

Ashton Jessu

jessee@gu.net

ANDREW GRAY

Karen Bronga

Organization

The Salvation Army  
Community

Christian Health Associates

community member

// //

Anc. Health Dept.

AKIRA

Community Member

CSS

AKHR / DTCC

Dylan Fisher  
(matson)

Cook Inlet  
Soccer Club

MOA

STATE LEGISLATURE  
Assembly