

Fairview Community Council

A Resolution Regarding the Fact Our Community has a Unique Physical Location on Earth with Particular Attributes Requiring Consideration

Resolution 2024-08

Whereas, It is a physical fact that Fairview is located at 61.2 Degrees North Latitude on Planet Earth sharing a similar far northern location with the established Scandinavian metropolitan areas of Oslo, Norway, Stockholm, Sweden, Helsinki, Finland; and

Whereas, All the communities, including Anchorage share a reality of being physically located within an area referred to as the *Circumpolar North*; and

Whereas, The U.S. Census has determined the Municipality of Anchorage (of which Fairview is a distinct sub-area) has a 2020 Census population of 296,000 persons with a designation of major metropolitan statistical area; and

Whereas, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Title 23 U.S.C. has federal regulations stating population centers above 200,000 persons qualify as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) relationship with the local regional planning organization Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS); and

Whereas, Anchorage is the only major metropolitan area or TMA on the North American continent located in the Circumpolar North; and

Whereas, A Fairview resident of good standing has produced a Discussion Paper titled “ A Northern Place: Anchorage as a Unique Sub-Arctic Community” that is readily available to all members of the general public; and

Whereas, The document lays out particulars supporting the Title’s assertion including how the axial tilt of our planet and its orbit around the Sun creates unique seasonal variations due to our far northern location resulting in a duality of light and dark periods that are extended and distinct; and

Whereas, The document presents evidence establishing a significant health relationship between human beings and exposure to extended periods of darkness identified anecdotally as “Cabin Fever” and clinically as “Seasonal Affective Disorder” (SAD) that creates a public health, mobility and economic productivity public policy issue of concern; and

Whereas, The physical location of Anchorage constitutes a unique set of circumstances that warrant explicit consideration in Municipal Plans, Programs, Ordinances, Regulations, and Policies in order to support robust economic development and establish Anchorage as a Livable Winter City; and

Whereas, The duality of our circumpolar location with its unique seasonal patterns is not adequately recognized by Municipal Codes, Regulations, Plans or Programs as evidenced by the Municipal Snow Management Plan promoting use of sidewalks as snow storage for extended periods thus depriving those of low-income and without a vehicle safe access to pedestrian infrastructure; and

Whereas, The Municipal Landscape Ordinance only requires development to consider how a development incorporates summer landscaping elements while completely ignoring the other

half of the year and the notion of winter landscaping opportunities reflecting an inadequate understanding of Anchorage’s unique location and lengthy period where life is dominated by darkness; and

Whereas, The avoidance of winter issues is accentuated by the lengthy periods when life is dominated by darkness with well-known impacts on human health and productivity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Fairview Community Council (FVCC) formally requests our duly elected officials and Administration officials to acknowledge the unique circumstances of our planetary location requiring a higher degree of innovation in order for Fairview to become a Winter City Neighborhood of Choice; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, The FVCC requests public-oriented agencies and personnel to acknowledge the need to address the unique duality of light and dark experienced by residents in their administration of Public Policies, Programs, and Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The FVCC strongly encourages widespread participation in cooperative efforts to re-imagine Fairview and the East Downtown areas as Livable Winter City Area of Choice.

This Fairview Community Council after obtaining a quorum of 15 members _____ Approved _____ Disapproved this resolution by a vote of ____Ayes ____Nays ____ Abstentions.

Attested this ____ day of _____, 2024.

James Thornton, President
Fairview Community Council