

Fairview Community Council

*A Resolution Regarding Operating a Warming Facility in Fairview*

**Resolution 2024-18**

Whereas, The Municipality of Anchorage has a long history of biased public decision-making and policy decisions that have disproportionately and negatively affected the neighborhoods of Fairview; and

Whereas, Fairview has borne the brunt of these unjust decisions for decades, with significant negative impacts on neighborhood businesses, residents, and homeowners; and

Whereas, Throughout the pandemic, the Sullivan Arena operated as a low-barrier shelter for those experiencing homelessness; and

Whereas, The Sullivan Arena included a warming facility, for the purpose of providing emergency shelter to those who would not or could not use the regular facility, other services, or be housed elsewhere for a variety of reasons including drug use, behavioral issues, and choosing to remain sheltered in camps; and

Whereas, The use of the Sullivan Arena as a shelter, and the associated warming shelter, resulted in increased foot traffic, predation, drug dealing, prostitution, petty theft, vandalism, inebriation, public defecation, and sleeping on public and private properties; and

Whereas, The negative impacts of the population using the warming shelter occurring off-site were felt the most adversely by the neighbors, property owners, business owners and their employees, and residents surrounding the Sullivan Arena; and

Whereas, Clients of the warming facility cannot be forced to remain on premises, or to leave the vicinity; and

Whereas, A facility providing a walk-in and/or referral-only warming facility for homeless and indigent individuals will cause a repeat of the negative neighborhood impacts created by using the Sullivan Arena as a homeless shelter; and

Whereas, Graceful Touch has proposed to operate a warming facility at 1536 Gambell Street; and

Whereas, The operators of Graceful Touch have met with members of the Fairview Community Council on three occasions; and

Whereas, In Mid-November 2023, Graceful Touch advertised a 24/7 warming shelter coming 'next week' on their front window while they were still in negotiations with the City; and

Whereas, Graceful Touch was not given the authority to advertise such a shelter coming online as the City had not made a final decision on moving forward with the operator; and

Whereas, The immediate surrounding neighborhood felt the negative impact of said advertising in the form of increased foot traffic, vandalism, and petty theft; and

Whereas, Graceful Touch is not compliant with several provisions of Municipal Code 16.125; and

Whereas, Some communications from the then President of the Fairview Community Council gave members of the public, the Assembly, and/or the MAyor's office the impression that the Fairview Community Council was open to the idea of a warming shelter in the proximity of the Sullivan Arena.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Fairview Community Council strongly rejects the idea of a warming shelter in the proximity of the Sullivan Arena and West Fairview; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That while the Fairview Community Council recognizes Graceful Touch's desire to do good work, the Council does not find Graceful Touch to be competent to operate a warming facility, either walk-in or referral based, and to deal with the population as such an operation would serve in a way that would not create a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Fairview Community Council does not believe that a warming facility operated 24/7 or for limited hours, on a walk-in or referral basis, can be operated in a manner that will not negatively impact the neighborhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Fairview Community Council strongly discourages any proposal at this time, funded privately, through grants, and/or municipal or state funding for Graceful Touch or any other operator to operate a warming facility be it daytime, 24/7, or referral based in West Fairview in the vicinity of the Sullivan Arena.

This Fairview Community Council after obtaining a quorum of 15 members  
\_\_\_Approved\_\_\_Disapproved this resolution by a vote of \_\_\_ Ayes\_\_\_ Naves\_\_\_  
Abstentions.

Attested this \_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thornton, President