

South Addition Community Council

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPROPRIATING LEGISLATIVE FUNDING FOR THE OSCAR ANDERSON HOUSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WHEREAS, the Oscar Anderson House dates from the founding of Anchorage in 1915, and is reputed to be the **first** private residence completed following the townsite auction; and

WHEREAS, the Oscar Anderson House is Anchorage's only historical house museum, and exhibits the living conditions of a first-generation pioneer family; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2007, identifies the **Oscar Anderson House** as a National Historic Register site and one of 20 significant historic properties in Downtown that have increasingly become a major focal point of attraction for residents and out-of-state visitors; and

WHEREAS, Downtown Anchorage's historic structures have been identified as essential assets for future growth, vitality, and revitalization – by preserving the community's heritage in ways that attract visitors, locals, and investors to the area; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Municipality and the Anchorage Downtown Partnership commissioned a Downtown Market Study to determine the best approach for attracting future visitors and residents to Downtown Anchorage, and found a firm basis for supporting heritage properties and cultural programs in Downtown as important economic development assets; and

WHEREAS, the Oscar Anderson House **Museum** has operated each summer visitor season and Christmas holiday since 1982, and has provided a popular elementary school program; and

WHEREAS, funding for the museum's educational and interpretative programs has declined significantly; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that continued active occupation by people and uses compatible with historic preservation is necessary for the survival of a heritage structure; and

WHEREAS, loss of the museum program, its employee and volunteers would be detrimental to the building, and make it more difficult to maintain its identity or to reopen a similar caliber program in the future.

Therefore it be resolved that the South Addition Community Council supports the efforts of the Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Anchorage Women's Club to secure legislative funding for the museum's educational and interpretative programs.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 2011

Bonnie E. Harris, President