



**Requested Action for Enforcement of Illegal Camping Laws**

**WHEREAS**, Northeast Community Council (NECC) function is to propose action in regards to enforcement of existing laws or ordinances; **and**

**WHEREAS**, camping is prohibited on municipal land and public parks except in areas specifically designated for such use in accordance with [AMC 25.70.040](#) and [AMC 25.70.060](#), and carries a [\\$75 fine](#); **and**

**WHEREAS**, a person commits the crime of criminal trespass if the person knowingly enters or remains on public premises or property after the person has been requested to leave by someone with the apparent authority to do so under [AMC 8.45.010\(A\)\(3\)\(b\)](#); **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage needs to enforce its laws prohibiting camping not to criminalize homelessness, but to use enforcement as one important tool among others to encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to accept services and to help ensure safe and accessible public spaces; **and**

**WHEREAS**, parks are key to the community and are one of the reasons people purchase and rent available homes. Allowing homeless individuals and groups to reside in parks by not enforcing the laws has resulted in entire parks or parts of parks becoming “no go zones” whereby park visitors, and even law enforcement in some cases, do not feel safe; **and**

**WHEREAS**, illegal encampments have decreased public safety, increased trespassing, increased risk of wildfire, increased littering, increased pollution of waterways, increased deforestation, increased human-provisioned domestication of wild animals, increased costs to neighbors of public land, created dramatic community blight, decreased economic activity, tarnished the reputation of the Municipality of Anchorage and State of Alaska, deterred community investment in public spaces, decreased active living choices on public land, and deprived the enrichment of children in learning about their natural environment; **and**

**WHEREAS**, NECC is actively engaged in addressing the complex issue of homelessness, and in addition to enforcement of laws prohibiting camping outside of designated spaces the NECC proposes the Municipality of Anchorage investigate the following:

1. Use winter shelters as an opportunity to educate homeless people that parks are not to be used for shelter and implement such an education program.
2. Establish “Park Patrols” made up of volunteers tasked with reporting people illegally using public land, assisting law enforcement and social services staff with removing items, and assisting with remediation of damage and illegal refuse caused by unlawful park habitation.
3. Lease unimproved private land to the Municipality or other providers and use it as dedicated space for structured campsites with dumpsters, medical resources, porta cans, and so on.
4. Create dedicated areas with dumpsters, medical resources, porta cans, and other resources on snow dumps and the edge of snow dumps or under used or empty public

land.

5. Create a process to track homeless sex offenders and require notification to residents within three days if a registered public sex offender sets an illegal camp in a public space within 200 feet of a residence or another camp.
6. Provide clear instruction to Anchorage residents to immediately report illegal campfires for extinguishment via webpage, brochure, advertisement, etc.; **and**

**WHEREAS**, NECC has historically placed an item on its general meeting agendas to bring forth the issue of addressing homelessness and passed related resolutions thereto, and will continue to actively be part of the homelessness solution; **and**

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE HEREBY RESOLVED** the NECC requests the Municipality of Anchorage to fully enforce its laws, fines, criminal charges, and remove illegal camps from Municipal park land.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the NECC requests the Municipality investigate suggestions set forth in this resolution and provide a report on feasibility that address technical, financial, operational, legal/regulatory, and other risk assessments and conclusions of each item within three months to the date of this resolution. The results of the reports may establish the basis for future NECC resolutions supporting the suggestions or further actions taken up by NECC Committees.

**Resolution Vote:** For \_\_\_\_ Against: \_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_

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Pamela Raygor, President, NECC

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David Weber, Secretary, NECC