

UACC Comments on the Proposed Homeless/Navigation Facility SE of Tudor & Elmore Roads
to the Anchorage Assembly July 6,2021

Thank you. I'm Paul Stang, President of the University Area Community Council

We strongly support efforts to reduce homelessness in Anchorage

We commend Mayor Bronson for addressing the issue, but believe the proposed facility is far too large. Smaller shelters of 100 -150 beds have proven to be better.

Insufficient time remains to complete this facility by the onset of cold weather.

This Shelter/Navigation Facility is ill-defined and there is no Plan B.

The logos of the many organizations shown in Dr. Morris' Power Point slides seem to imply endorsement, but we've seen no such statements of support.

The 24/7 low barrier to entrance invites safety and security issues and acceptance of pets increases sanitary issues.

Serious conflicts with neighbors and an increase in petty thief appear inevitable.

The risk of forest fires from nearby camps is likely to be very high.

Further serious overloading of Providence and ANMC emergency rooms would be expected.

We request an independent assessment of the Sullivan Arena experience.

The Mayor & Assembly should immediately seek an extension of the option to buy the midtown Alaska Club – the option expires this Friday.

We request a detailed schedule of critical milestones for the proposal from the Mayor straightaway. How can this endeavor succeed otherwise?

Without the info we requested, the UACC cannot make a reasoned judgement of the merits of the facility and its operations. In fact, no one can. So why fund it?

The UACC already has a well-managed homeless facility ½ mile from the site.

We look forward to assisting the new administration in finding an effective and equitable Anchorage-wide solution to this difficult problem. Thank you.