

Submitted by: Assembly Members Zaletel, Weddleton
and Vice-Chair Constant

For reading:

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2021-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY COMMITTING TO A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC INTERIM AND LONG-TERM PLAN TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes the need and urgency to work collaboratively to address housing and homelessness impacts in the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality needs to plan for two phases: the interim winter 2021-2022 mass care plan as the result of the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and the long term housing and homelessness strategy; and

WHEREAS, it is the priority of the Assembly to first ensure there is adequate shelter for anyone in need as soon as possible but with even more urgency during this upcoming winter due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19, while simultaneously recognizing that shelter alone is not the solution to making homelessness rare, brief and one time; and

WHEREAS, a facilitated collaborative approach involving the Assembly, Administration, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and philanthropy will result in better outcomes for both the housed and unhoused members of our community; and

WHEREAS, homeless and transient shelter can be more than a safe place to stay, but also a significant aid in the process of obtaining permanent housing through facilitating access to housing programs, jobs programs, public benefits, medical and mental health care and other programs that benefit clients, and co-location of these services is often referred to as a navigation center;

WHEREAS, mass care operations are reasonable and necessary to continue through the winter 2021-2022 due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a housing surge funded by the Municipality is currently underway and expected to increase its capacity and continue for the remainder of 2021 into 2022, and will continue as long as needed by our community as resources are available; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative process to deliberately design and improve upon a continuum of care for individuals experiencing homelessness and needing to transition from shelter and mass care to permanent housing has begun and will continue for the foreseeable future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY:

The Assembly, in coordination with the Administration, philanthropy and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, commits to a facilitated collaborative process to rapidly design and implement a continuum of care for those experiencing homelessness and needing

1 to transition from shelter and mass care to permanent housing that will:

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- 3 A. Engage a facilitator and the individuals who will participate in the facilitated
- 4 process by August 1, 2021;
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- 6 B. In addition to the Assembly, Administration, philanthropy and the Anchorage
- 7 Coalition to End Homelessness, bring together relevant stakeholders such as,
- 8 shelter and housing operators, businesses, people with lived experience, and
- 9 experts to advise on various aspects of providing housing and homelessness
- 10 services throughout the facilitated process;
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- 12 C. Commit to designing homeless and transient shelter(s) that includes a navigation
- 13 center as one of the first deliverables to be determined no later than October 1,
- 14 2021 in the facilitated process to inform the 2022 Municipal budget process;
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- 16 D. Identify the operational capacity needed for homeless and transient shelter(s)
- 17 with navigation center and other housing supports for consideration in the 2022
- 18 Municipal budget process as well as the remaining Cares Act fund balance and
- 19 second tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act funding;
- 20
- 21 E. Identify existing and/or design purpose-built facilities to meet the identified gaps
- 22 in housing and homelessness response services for purchase and/or construction
- 23 by first quarter budget revisions in April 2022 for consideration for the remaining
- 24 Cares Act fund balance and funding through the second tranche of American
- 25 Rescue Plan Act;
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- 27 F. Regularly report out through the Assembly’s Committee on Housing and
- 28 Homelessness its progress toward the identified milestones and engage in
- 29 community outreach through community councils throughout the process;
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- 31 G. In continued response to the COVID emergency, continue mass care operations
- 32 including non-congregate shelters; and
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- 34 H. Produce deliverables and a public engagement process no later than October 1,
- 35 2021 that identifies design and site criteria and necessary service delivery for
- 36 purposes of implementation of the homeless and transient shelter with navigation
- 37 center and housing.
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39 This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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41 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of
42 _____, 2021.

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45 Chair of the Assembly

46 ATTEST:

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50 Municipal Clerk