

June 16, 2022

Mayor Dave Bronson, Municipality of Anchorage
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly Chair
Diane Kaplan, Rasmuson Foundation President / CEO
Greg Cerbana, Weidner Apartment Homes

Re: Conclusion of Facilitated Process

We want to inform you we are concluding our work facilitating efforts by the Municipality and the Anchorage Assembly to improve the homeless situation in our community. We do not believe at this point we can add value implementing the client and community focused strategy the Assembly and Municipality have agreed to.

Homelessness is a complex, multifaceted issue impacting some of the most vulnerable members of our community and the quality of life of our community itself. Successfully addressing it takes proactive engaged, transparent collaboration among multiple government, philanthropic, service, business and religious organizations willing to rise above differences and partner with each other in positive, creative ways to achieve common goals.

Much progress has been made over the past year in Anchorage because of extraordinary work by many dedicated individuals and organizations. The Anchorage community can be proud of this progress, and we are proud of helping advance that work. We thank the Assembly and Mayor Bronson for the opportunity.

However, the transparency, candor and “we are all in this together” attitude that enabled that earlier progress has in our opinion broken down in recent months. The decision framework approach we apply to support issue resolution depends on willingness to engage on tough issues with transparency, candor, accurate data, and credible information. We are no longer in such an environment and are thus unable to add value supporting decision-making needed to successfully exit mass care at Sullivan arena and implement agreed to planks of the client and community centered homeless strategy. We encourage the Administration to continue working together with the Assembly and community partners over coming weeks as Sullivan Arena is closed, operating plans for a navigation center are developed, and for the long term given that gaps remain in supportive low-cost housing availability in Anchorage.

We thank the Rasmuson Foundation and Weidner Apartment Homes for supporting this initiative and the many individuals we got to know and work with over the last eight months. We hope the Municipality, Assembly, funders, and service providers continue work to make homelessness rare and temporary in our community, and keep people who experience homelessness safe, secure and on paths to better lives.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett 

Tom Barrett and Belinda Breaux

cc:

Larry Baker, MOA Consultant
Felix Rivera, Anchorage Assembly
Kameron Perez, Anchorage Assembly
Joe Gerace, AHD Director

Alexis Johnson, MOA Chief of Staff
Courtney Petersen, MOA OMB
Meg Zalatel, ACEH
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