



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. AIM XXX-2022

Meeting Date: July 26, 2022

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From: Assembly Member Volland

Subject: Homelessness Leadership Council letter of support for the passage of AR 2022-221 and 2022-222.

Attached is a letter of support for AR 2022-221 and AR 2022-222 from the Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council (HLC) for your information and review. The business and community leader members of the HLC support the two resolutions designed to implement multiple pillars of the Anchored Home plan.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
Respectfully submitted: Daniel Volland, Assembly Member
District 1, Downtown/North Anchorage

July 25, 2022

Dear Anchorage Assembly Members and Mayor Bronson,

The Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council (HLC) is comprised of business and community leader members who guide and support the implementation of Anchored Home, Anchorage's community plan to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. We are deeply committed to addressing homelessness through housing and to the provision of shelter and services that safely care for people experiencing homelessness and guide them to housing stability. At the core of the HLC's role and responsibilities is to mobilize and align resources; therefore, **we urge support for AR 2022-222 and AR 2022-221.**

We support the passage of **AR 2022-222** to appropriate \$3,400,000 to First Presbyterian Anchorage, LLC, a 501(c)(3) entity to purchase the Guest House, a 130-unit hotel for conversion to housing units for low-income and extremely low-income Anchorage residents. The hotel is currently in use as transitional housing for 132 people exiting mass care shelter and will be converted, upon sale, to workforce and supportive housing units. Most of the current residents will lease their units after the sale. This acquisition is part of the plan approved by the Assembly in AR 2021-350 providing for an exit strategy to end mass care and implement an integrated client and community centered approach to addressing homelessness. That plan calls for 300 new workforce and supportive housing units. This property acquisition will help achieve AR 2021-350's goal of bringing online more affordable housing units at this time when Anchorage has a critical dearth of available and affordable housing units. Additionally, passage of AR 2022-222 will assist in ensuring that the current transitionally housed residents do not lose their housing and provide an opportunity to gain a foothold in stable housing through housing leases.

The implementation of AR 2021-350 was envisioned as a public-private partnership. This particular property, as well as the Sockeye Inn property acquired earlier to become the complex care facility, have indeed been public-private partnerships. Private funders for these properties include Weidner Apartment Homes, Providence Alaska, Premera, Doyon, Calista, Chugach Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, and the Rasmuson Foundation. As part of that collaborative funding model, the Administration committed during the facilitated process to provide \$3,400,000 to the capital stack for the Guest House acquisition. However, the funding source the Administration identified cannot be processed in time to meet scheduled closing date in late August. If that deadline is not met, the people currently transitionally housed at the Guest House will lose their housing, and the opportunity to purchase the property may be lost. This resolution authorizes a different funding source to ensure that the purchase can be completed on time. We strongly urge that AR2022-222 be passed and that the Administration promptly transfers the funds to ensure that the property transaction can close as scheduled.

We also support the passage of **AR 2022-221** to appropriate funds to swiftly address the acute needs of the startling and heartbreakingly high numbers of unsheltered people following the closure of the Sullivan Arena and most of the non-congregate shelter locations. The funding to establish and implement an emergency cold weather shelter plan will get the community in position to provide safe shelter as we edge towards that 45-degree temperature trigger for emergency shelter. Further, the ability to connect with people experiencing homelessness to help them on the path to housing is far more difficult now that the Sullivan and non-congregate shelters are closed. Outreach and transportation funding is urgently needed to establish relationships with as many people as possible to make sure they are safely sheltered, if not housed, before the winter. Finally, the funding for rental units' rehabilitation will further increase the inventory of available units to move those experiencing homelessness to housing as soon as possible. We strongly urge that AR 2022-221 be passed and the funds deployed as quickly as possible to address the serious conditions at the various camp sites throughout Anchorage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Aaron Schutt
President & CEO
Doyon, Limited

Bill Popp
President & CEO
AEDC

Carol Gore
President & CEO
Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Diane Kaplan
President & CEO
Rasmuson Foundation

Erec Isaacson
President
ConocoPhillips

Greg Cerbana
VP, Gov't Affairs
Weidner Apartment Homes

Greg Deal
Regional Bank President
Wells Fargo

Rev. Matt Schultz
Pastor
Anchorage First Presbyterian Church

Preston Simmons
CEO
Providence Health & Services

Sophie Minich
President & CEO
CIRI

Steve Williams
CEO
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority