

Submitted by: Assembly Members Rivera and
Perez-Verdia
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: August 17, 2022

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-XX**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**
2 **ESTABLISHING A TASKFORCE TO DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY SHELTER**
3 **PLAN FOR COLD WEATHER**
4

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the average number individuals active in the Homelessness
7 Prevention Response System (HPRS) is 3,187, which means that on average,
8 3,187 unique individuals who are literally homeless (unsheltered, sheltered,
9 transitional housing) who have interacted with the HPRS in the last 90 days; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, interacting with the HPRS can mean being actively enrolled in street
12 outreach, only receiving services and being unsheltered, or staying at a shelter;
13 and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, of those unique interactions with the HPRS, approximately 350 are
16 unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the average inflow of new individuals into the HPRS per month is 357;
19 and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, AMC section 16.120.020 requires that “the emergency shelter plan
22 shall be activated in the following circumstances: (1) automatically, with no
23 further action required by the department, when the outside temperature drops to
24 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below on the day when sheltering begins, by ambient
25 or wind-chill measures;” and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, historically and prior to COVID-19, the Municipality was able to
28 contract with Beans Café for evening use of their facility for emergency shelter
29 during cold weather; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, the former Beans Café building was sold and is no longer available
32 for such a purpose; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, in the past, the Municipality has tried and been unable to lease
35 alternate locations for purposes of providing emergency shelter; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, there are between 180 and 250 individuals staying at Centennial
38 Campground, approximately 130 individuals staying at the Guest House Inn,
39 approximately 200 staying at the Aviator Hotel; and
40

1 **WHEREAS**, there are currently only 14 high barrier shelter beds available as
2 shelter in the HPRS, with no movement in the HPRS system capacity for low
3 barrier availability for over 60 days; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, if there is no plan to decompress or extend mass care at the Aviator
6 Hotel, approximately 200 people will lose access to mass care on September 30,
7 2022; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, if funding to close the real estate transaction for the Guest House is
10 not made available by August 29, approximately 130 people will need to leave that
11 facility when the interim use funding ends on August 31, 2022; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, to date no grant agreements have been issued for the Assembly
14 appropriations approved at the July 26 meeting to Catholic Social Services to
15 expand Brother Francis low barrier shelter capacity, Christian Health Associates to
16 secure family emergency shelter services, and Anchorage Coalition to End
17 Homelessness to begin enhanced street outreach; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, if no action is taken, the total scope of problem could be hundreds of
20 our most vulnerable residents who struggle with housing being left to survive
21 unsheltered on the streets and in our parks and public spaces; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly takes the Municipal obligation to provide emergency
24 shelter seriously, and failure to do so poses significant risk to public health and
25 safety of the community;
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**
28

29 **Section 1.** To create a special time limited task force with the purpose of convening
30 and presenting an emergency shelter plan consistent with AMC Chapter 16.120,
31 which limits the capacity of any emergency shelter location to no more than 150
32 individuals.
33

34 **Section 2.** The task force shall be convened by the Anchorage Coalition to End
35 Homelessness, who shall determine its membership from a broad array of providers,
36 stakeholder organizations, and Municipal agencies, and meet publicly and provide
37 prior public notice of its meetings.

38 **Section 3.** The task force shall consider specific population-based solutions that
39 decrease the need for larger facilities – i.e. specialized shelter for elders,
40 LGBTQIA+, etc.
41

42 **Section 4.** The task force shall consider the feasibility of utilizing the Sprung
43 structure at a temporary location other than Tudor and Elmore for emergency shelter
44 purposes.
45

46 **Section 5.** The task force shall provide bi-weekly reports to the Chair of the
47 Assembly Committee on Housing and Homelessness.
48

1 **Section 6.** The task force shall submit a proposed Emergency Sheltering Plan to
2 the Assembly and concurrent appropriation requests no later than September 22 for
3 consideration at the September 27, 2022 regular Assembly meeting.

4
5 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
6 of _____, 2022.

7
8 _____
9 Chair of the Assembly

10 ATTEST:

11
12
13 _____
14 Municipal Clerk
15