

10/24/2022

Esteemed Mayor and Assembly,

Since the Sullivan Arena has been re-opened as an emergency shelter, the surrounding residents and business owners have and continue to experience negative and increasingly dangerous impacts that need to be addressed and mitigated immediately.

The negative conditions and impacts being experienced currently in surrounding neighborhoods of the Sullivan Arena include widespread alcohol consumption in public, drug use and drug dealing, violence against individuals and private property, regular firearm discharges and unchecked predation on vulnerable individuals in need of assistance. Voluntary and involuntary prostitution, illegal camps, littering and widespread solicitation are also present. Most of these acts are against the law, and perpetrators are unfettered in their continued actions. Citizens are begging the question, why are these individuals not held to the same standards of conduct as the rest of the population of Anchorage? Why are these continued actions allowed in Fairview?

It is reasonable to see individuals step forward occasionally to perform CPR, administer NarCan, defend private property, or call 911. These should be a rare exception to life in any neighborhood of our city, not a daily occurrence. As law abiding citizens we deserve to feel safe when using our public spaces. Right now the public does not feel safe accessing the Chester Creek trail between Lake Otis and Westchester Lagoon.

These current unchecked conditions in our neighborhood present an immediate health and safety hazard to residents, business owners and those receiving services.

It is the responsibility of the Municipality of Anchorage to protect its citizens from clear and present health and safety hazards. The current and increasing threats present in Fairview are directly associated with the Sullivan Arena mass congregate shelter and its immediate external impacts.

Because the Sullivan Arena shelter contractor Henning is unable to expand services beyond the immediate surrounding area due to contract and resource limitations, additional services and support are in dire need at this time. **We need to see immediate deployment of Municipal resources to address safety around the Sullivan Arena.**

Furthermore, the Fairview residents and business owners respectfully request **immediate and swift action to mitigate the dangerous conditions present in our neighborhood.** If actions are not taken, loss of life and continued threats to the the adjacent and surrounding properties' safety and security will continue to be present.

While life/safety issues are paramount, there are additional issues that need addressing: We respectfully request immediate action to address these public health, safety and quality of life issues surrounding the Sullivan.

- 1) 24/7 medical services to include the Mobile Crisis Mental Health Unit and APD presence at the Sullivan.
- 2) Regular APD patrols from Fireweed to 9th and Sitka to C.
- 2) safe disposal cans for needles at the Sullivan
- 3) get the needle exchange to put the Sullivan on their mobile route
- 4) port a potties in public right of ways surrounding the sullivan arena, both toward the woods, up the hill, and toward C st.
- 5) APD bike/foot patrols in the bike trail between Lake Otis and C
- 6) expedite the process to bring the Golden Lion and other housing options online
- 7) Provide NarCan training and supplies to Sullivan and residents when requested
- 8) trash removal from public right of ways in the covered area (Fireweed to 9th, Sitka to C)

Finally, we respectfully request that APD and other service providers (Providence, EMS, ASP) bring individuals to the main entrance of the Sullivan Arena, and not drop them on 16th avenue. In the space between 16th ave and the front door of the Mass Care Shelter, individuals are offered alcohol and drugs, predated upon, and invited to come party with others who are not receiving care at the Sullivan. Dropping them at the front door will help reduce this impact on the neighborhood.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to a quick and decisive response.

Respectfully,
James Thornton
Chair, Fairview Community Council ad-hoc Committee on Homelessness