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Submitted by: Assembly Members Volland and Rivera

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: April 18, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR No. 2023-XX

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
ESTABLISHING A TASKFORCE TO EXPLORE SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH COMPLEX BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS**

WHEREAS, the Assembly approved AR 2023-127 on April 11, 2023, a resolution adopting a demobilization plan for emergency shelter provided by the Municipality during the 2022-2023 winter season, which included the idea of the Assembly creating a task force on complex behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS, complex behavioral health needs are a community-wide issue throughout the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska, with the 2021 Statewide Community Health Assessment showing behavioral health needs among the top three priorities across all regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, with the closure of emergency shelter locations, including the Sullivan Arena, Alex Hotel, and Aviator Hotel planned for May 1, there are immediate needs which must be addressed to ensure the safety of people experiencing homelessness and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness's data dashboard shows that 49.4% of people experiencing homelessness in the Municipality self-report disabling conditions including complex behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS, aside from the immediate needs in our community, it is necessary to explore mid-to-long-term solutions to address complex behavioral health needs of our vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, this burden should not fall solely on the residents of the Municipality of Anchorage, with the State of Alaska and various other statewide agencies playing an important part in the funding and problem-solving for this issue; and

WHEREAS, this task force will provide guidance and solutions to the Municipality of Anchorage as well as State of Alaska officials for both the immediate needs the Municipality will face on May 1 as well as mid-to-long-term solutions to the complex behavioral health issues we face as a community.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. To create a special time-limited task force with the purpose of identifying issues and proposing solutions to the Anchorage Assembly and Municipal Administration for individuals at risk of experiencing homelessness with complex

1 behavioral health needs.

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3 **Section 2.** The task force shall be convened jointly by the Chairs of the Assembly's
4 Health Policy and Housing and Homelessness Committees or their designee, who
5 shall determine its membership from a broad array of providers, stakeholder
6 organizations, and Municipal agencies, and meet publicly and provide prior public
7 notice of its meetings. Offers shall be extended to the Municipal Administration and
8 appropriate State of Alaska agencies to be a member of the task force. If a designee
9 is chosen to convene the task force, the Assembly shall be notified by AIM.

10 **Section 3.** The task force's recommendations shall include, but not be limited to,
11 both immediate needs and mid-to-long-term solutions.

- 12 • Immediate needs include: the identification and implementation of available
13 local, state, federal, philanthropic, and private monetary, agency, and staffing
14 resources to assist with the transition out of emergency shelter on May 1.
- 15 • Mid-to-long-term solutions include: needs and capacity mapping, operational
16 and capital needs, workforce development needs, and other items as
17 identified by or referred to the task force by the Chairs of the Assembly's
18 Health Policy and Housing and Homelessness Committees.

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20 **Section 4.** The task force shall provide bi-weekly reports of its activities to the
21 Assembly through the Chairs of the Assembly's Health Policy and Housing and
22 Homelessness Committees.

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24 **Section 5.** The task force shall submit reports to legislators in the Anchorage
25 Caucus, Governor Dunleavy and appropriate State of Alaska agencies via email of
26 immediate needs no later than May 1, and of mid-to-long-term solutions no later
27 than August 31.

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29 **Section 6.** No later than May 2, 2023, the task force shall submit a report identifying
30 and making recommendations to address immediate needs via AIM to the Assembly
31 meeting addendum to the agenda for review by the Assembly at a joint meeting of
32 the Health Policy and Housing and Homelessness Committees.

33 **Section 7.** No later than September 5, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
34 recommending mid-to-long-term solutions via AIM to the Assembly meeting
35 addendum to the agenda for review by the Assembly at a joint meeting of the Health
36 Policy and Housing and Homelessness Committees.

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38 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
39 of _____, 2023.

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42 _____
43 Chair of the Assembly

44 ATTEST:

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46 _____
47 Municipal Clerk