

Laid-on-the-Table

Submitted by: Assembly Chair Constant and
Members Brawley and Rivera

Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office

For reading: September 12, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR No. 2023-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REAPPROPRIATING TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND NINETY-EIGHT CENTS (\$2,435,750.98) OF PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$3,488,315.28) OF PREVIOUSLY REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE ADULT SHELTER AND/OR NAVIGATION CENTER TO THE OPERATING PROJECTS COMMITTED GENERAL FUND (190000) FOR HOMELESSNESS - FOR NON-CONGREGATE EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER DURING WINTER 2023-2024 AND SHELTER AND HOUSING NEEDS, AND AMENDING CONDITIONS FOR USE OF BEETLE KILL MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDS.

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 16.120, Emergency Shelter Plan for Homeless Persons, provides for the activation and deactivation of emergency shelter under certain weather conditions which occur annually in Anchorage (“when the outside temperature drops to 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below on the day when sheltering begins, by ambient or wind-chill measures”), during a mayoral declaration of civil emergency, or when the Anchorage Health Department Director finds that a lack of available shelter options otherwise poses a danger to the life and health of unsheltered people within the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, at the Assembly Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting on August 16, 2023, the Anchorage Health Department presented a working draft and options for the 2023-2024 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan; and

WHEREAS, in the meeting the Health Department identified the current estimate of unsheltered persons expecting to utilize winter shelter as 400 individuals; and

WHEREAS, prior estimates made by the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness indicated as many as 450 unsheltered persons may be expected to utilize winter shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has utilized non-congregate sheltering for the last three years to meet at least part of the community’s need for winter emergency shelter, by contracting with hotel providers to shelter individuals in rooms; and

WHEREAS, non-congregate sheltering is a recognized strategy to facilitate social distancing and prevent the spread of infectious diseases, particularly among vulnerable populations during winter months; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department estimated total non-congregate sheltering costs, based on a planning number of \$100 per room per day, to be up to \$1.24 million per month for 400 individuals, or up to \$1.395 million per month for 450 individuals; and

WHEREAS, it may be assumed that a portion of rooms utilized for non-congregate shelter may support double occupancy for couples, individuals with existing relationships, and individuals who consent to sharing a room, which allows for efficient use of municipal resources to provide emergency cold weather shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department released a Request for Information (RFI) on Monday, August 7, 2023, soliciting responses from lodging providers to identify properties where non-congregate winter sheltering may be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department reported that existing congregate and non-congregate shelter facilities serving adults and families are unable to expand capacity to shelter additional clients, and cannot serve the 450 currently unsheltered individuals anticipated to utilize winter shelter; and also reported that Covenant House can only expand its capacity for young adult sheltering by 25 individuals, with an approximate cost of \$66,700 per month; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has no identified operating funding source to provide for emergency cold weather sheltering year over year, and therefore requires one-time funding appropriations until such recurring funding source is identified; and

WHEREAS, based on figures reported by the Health Department, between \$2,315,789 and \$2,772,000 will be needed to adequately fund emergency cold weather shelter between October 15 and December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, additional funding must be identified to continue emergency cold weather sheltering between January 1 and April 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, at a work session on August 18, 2023 regarding AR 2023-182(S), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) identified a series of potentially-available one-time funding that could be re-appropriated by the Assembly, including remaining funding from AR 2022-111(S), as Amended, for construction of an adult shelter and/or navigation center and unused and returned ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, AR 2023-102(S) as Amended previously appropriated \$107,615.77 to fund 190000 for continued homelessness overflow shelter support in FY23; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality continues to experience heightened risk of wildfire due to the large acreage of wooded public and private lands, and widespread dead vegetation due to ongoing impacts of spruce bark beetle infestation; and

WHEREAS, OMB reported a total of \$2,027,938.08 of unspent funds that were previously appropriated for wildfire mitigation and removal of spruce bark beetle kill, comprised of \$938,748.85 previously appropriated to fund 190000 by AR

2023-102 (S) as Amended as match funding for a federal grant which did not ultimately require a local match, and \$1,089,189.23 of unspent funds for Beetle Kill Mitigation, Round 2 in Anchorage and Chugiak-Eagle River;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. That a transfer in the amount of Two Million One Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Six Hundred Forty-nine Dollars and Ninety-three Cents (\$2,126,649.93) of unused American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds previously appropriated by AR 2021-167(S) detailed below are hereby reappropriated as a transfer to the Operating Projects Committed General Fund (190000) for Homelessness – Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering (2900001049), Anchorage Health Department, to be used for emergency cold weather sheltering costs beginning October 15, 2023, or as soon as Title 16.120 is activated, through December 31, 2024.

- \$1,341,500.00 - Small Business Relief grants (returned by Cook Inlet Lending), AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 4
- \$288,223.58 - Business Property Tax Relief grants, AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 10
- \$90,085.00 - Support to American Legion Post #4 and Elks Lodge #2868 (returned), AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 44
- \$159,577.31 - Anchorage iTeam FTE to access federal relief funding/benefits, AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 14
- \$16,150.37 - Chugiak-Eagle River Library (unspent), AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 34f
- \$39,099.24 - Parks & Rec., 2021 fee relief (unspent), AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 34i
- \$192,004.43 - Maintenance & Operations, fleet replacement (unspent), AR 2021-167(S) as Amended, Sec. 34s

Section 2. That a transfer in the amount of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) of unused American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds previously appropriated by AR 2022-178(S) detailed below are hereby reappropriated as a transfer to the Operating Projects Committed General Fund (190000) for Homelessness – Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering (2900001049), Anchorage Health Department, to be used for emergency cold weather sheltering costs beginning October 15, 2023, or as soon as Title 16.120 is activated, through December 31, 2024.

- \$7,000.00 – Support to Arctic Entries (returned), AR 2022-178(S), Sec.65

Section 3. That a transfer in the amount of Three Hundred Two Thousand One Hundred One Dollars and Five Cents (\$302,101.05) of unused American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds previously appropriated by AR 2022-361 detailed below are hereby reappropriated as a transfer to the Operating Projects Committed General Fund (190000) for Homelessness – Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering (2900001049), Anchorage Health Department, to be used for emergency cold weather sheltering costs beginning October 15, 2023, or as soon as Title 16.120 is activated, through December 31, 2024.

- \$302,101.05 – Maintenance & Operations, security and cleaning around Sullivan Arena (unspent), AR 2022-361

Section 4. That a transfer in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Eighty-eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Twenty-eight Cents (\$3,488,315.28) previously reappropriated by AR 2022-111(S), as Amended for construction of an adult shelter and/or navigation center are hereby reappropriated as a transfer to the Operating Projects Committed General Fund (190000) for Homelessness – Sheltering and Housing, Anchorage Health Department, to be used for sheltering and housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Section 5. That the sum of \$2,435,750.98 used for emergency cold weather shelter costs, and said reappropriation shall be utilized for non-congregate emergency sheltering at one or more locations to be identified by the Anchorage Health Department.

Section 6. Remaining funds in the amount of \$938,748.85 appropriated by AR 2023-102(S), as Amended, Section 25 to the Operating Projects Committed General Fund (190000) for the Beetle Kill Mitigation Project is made available for use by AFD and any stipulation that funds can only be used for grant matching purposes are removed.

Section 7. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk

AHD \$5,924,066.26