

Municipal Clerk's Office

Approved

Date: August 22, 2023

Submitted by: Vice Chair Meg Zaletel, and
Assembly Members Kevin Cross
and Daniel Volland

Prepared by: Legislative Services Office
For reading: August 22, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-282(S)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY EXPRESSING SUPPORT
FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE TO SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST
FOR HUD'S PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING FUNDING
OPPORTUNITY.**

WHEREAS, Anchorage has been experiencing a housing shortage and affordability crisis for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly is committed to increasing affordable housing options and has adopted a "Housing Initiative*" as one of its top priorities for 2023, with a goal to "set a long-term housing vision, streamline codes and processes, and spur innovative, attainable housing development"; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly has taken actions to alleviate Anchorage's housing shortage and affordability crisis through passage of legislation:

- Allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in all residential and commercial zones, aiming to provide a mix of housing options and improve affordability; respond to increased demand for smaller households; and give designers and developers increased flexibility, AO No. 2022-107.
- Eliminating parking minimum requirements in all areas of the municipality, with the policy goal to make new housing more affordable and encourage adaptive re-use of vacant properties, AO No. 2022-80(S).
- Exempting residential design standards for hotel conversions, reducing the cost and time needed to convert hotels and motels into facilities suitable for housing, AO No. 2023-30; and

WHEREAS, members of the Anchorage Assembly are also in the process of crafting or considering additional legislation:

- Empowering the development of 3- and 4-unit housing by treating small multifamily housing as residential instead of commercial construction. The sponsors, Assembly Members Kevin Cross, Randy Sulte and Daniel Volland, invited industry stakeholders and municipal staff to provide ideas and inform the draft legislation over a series of working group roundtables.
- Simplifying Title 21 Land Use through an innovative proposal to redefine all residential districts in alignment with the Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2040 LUP). The proposal, sponsored by Assembly Vice Chair Meg Zaletel, and Assembly Member Daniel Volland, aims to increase residential density in order to address the growing housing demand in Anchorage and provide more affordable housing options for residents; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced the opening of an \$85 million first-of-its-kind competitive *Pathways to*

1 *Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing)* funding opportunity with grants
2 ranging from \$1 to \$10 million to help communities further develop, evaluate and
3 implement housing policy plans; address restrictive zoning, land use or regulatory
4 policies; improve housing strategies; and facilitate affordable housing production
5 and preservation; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, this funding can be used for development activities that facilitate the
8 conversion of commercial or other properties to new housing; finance construction
9 or rehabilitation projects; or to provide technical assistance to affordable or nonprofit
10 developers to assist with the development of affordable housing. It can also fund
11 preservation activities such as establishing loan or grant programs to rehabilitate
12 existing affordable units and create anti-displacement policies and prevention
13 measures; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage could benefit greatly from these newly
16 identified HUD funds; now, therefore,

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18 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES** that the Municipality is authorized to
19 submit a funding request to HUD by October 30, 2023.

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22 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Anchorage Assembly this 22nd day of August,
23 2023.

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28 **ATTEST:**



Chair



Municipal Clerk