

(S) Submitted by: Assembly Members  
Brawley and Volland  
(S) Reviewed by: Assembly Legislative  
Services  
(S) Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's  
Office  
(S) For reading: August 22, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR No. 2023-260(S)\***

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE**  
2 **COMMUNITY'S DIVERSE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOUSING IN THE**  
3 **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AND ADOPTING GENERAL PRINCIPLES**  
4 **FOR FUTURE HOUSING POLICY DECISIONS.**

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6 **WHEREAS**, the community of Anchorage was founded in 1915 as a tent city on the  
7 unceded lands of the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and grew in less than 100 years  
8 to have a population of almost 300,000 residents; and  
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10 **WHEREAS**, the community has faced many housing stresses in its history, from  
11 housing shortages during periods of prosperity and rapid growth, to mass out-  
12 migrations during recessions, and now a lack of supply and diversity of housing  
13 stock to meet the changing demands of our population; and  
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15 **WHEREAS**, as the community grows and changes over time, it becomes a better  
16 place as a direct result of the collective hard work, investments, innovations, and  
17 creativity of the diverse people who make Anchorage their home; and  
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19 **WHEREAS**, a home takes many forms, but is in essence a place where a person  
20 feels safe, where a person can rest, and serves as a stable anchoring point in a  
21 person's life, regardless of the many challenges they may face; and  
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23 **WHEREAS**, housing also takes many forms, from modest to grand, from large to  
24 small, owned and rented, old and new, in urban neighborhoods and rural areas; and  
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26 **WHEREAS**, some residents in our community live in the same home they grew up  
27 in, or has been owned by multiple generations of their family; and  
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29 **WHEREAS**, some community residents chose their home because of the amenities  
30 and features of the surrounding neighborhood; and  
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32 **WHEREAS**, some residents live in neighborhoods they could afford when they  
33 moved in, but would not be able to afford a similar home today; and  
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35 **WHEREAS**, some residents live in their ideal home for their employment or  
36 profession, family size, life stage, or personal preferences; and  
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38 **WHEREAS**, some residents' homes do not meet their needs; and  
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\* The (S) incorporates amendments to the original AR passed and approved at the August 8, 2023 Assembly meeting, without showing legislative drafting markup of those amendments. Legislative drafting is used to show changes in the (S) from the original AR, As Amended.

1 **WHEREAS**, some residents can only afford a home by living with roommates; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, some residents cannot afford housing, even if they are employed; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, some residents live in unsafe places, but have few or no alternatives  
6 they can afford in order to better their situation; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, some residents have had housing, but were evicted because they could  
9 not continue to afford rent; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, some residents are choosing to leave, and the difficulty of finding or  
12 affording housing that meets their needs is a significant factor in that choice; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, our community values home ownership as a way to maintain stability,  
15 build wealth, and feel invested in the long-term health of the community; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, increasing home ownership includes reducing cost burdens on  
18 residents who rent, allowing renters to build financial assets to purchase a home;

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20 **WHEREAS**, our community values diversity, which means not only diversity of  
21 residents, but also diversity of homes of many sizes, designs, and price points;

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23 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly previously set broad vision for the Municipality in the  
24 areas of economic and workforce development in AR 2022-136; identified  
25 actionable strategies to address the community's housing shortage in AR 2022-416;  
26 and adopted Housing among its 2023 priorities in AR 2023-45;

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28 **WHEREAS**, AR 2022-416 committed the Assembly to “develop a comprehensive  
29 housing policy outlining an Assembly action plan”; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly will sponsor Housing Action Week in Anchorage from  
32 October 30 to November 4, 2023, with a Community Housing Action Summit  
33 planned for Friday, November 3, 2023;

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35 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

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37 **Section 1.** The Assembly recognizes the right of all people to choose the  
38 Municipality of Anchorage as their home.

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40 **Section 2.** The Assembly recognizes its duty to weigh the interests of all  
41 Anchorage residents, and adopt public policy informed by diverse perspectives.

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43 **Section 3.** The Assembly adopts the following housing policy principles:

- 44 1. The Municipality strives to be a community with diverse and abundant  
45 opportunities for residents to choose a home that meets their needs.  
46 2. The Municipality will work to increase opportunities for home ownership by:  
47 a. Enacting policies to increase supply of housing for sale;  
48 b. Enacting policies to increase supply of rental housing; **[and]**  
49 c. **Enacting policies to increase the proportion of resident-occupied**

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**housing; and**

**d.** Pursuing strategies to reduce housing cost burdens on residents.

3. The Municipality cannot unilaterally address all barriers in the housing market, but will act locally through plans, policies, and funding decisions to create more favorable market conditions.

**4. The Assembly will support the community to achieve meaningful progress not through a single policy change, but through shared commitment and ongoing collaboration to evaluate, identify, and remove local barriers.**

**5.** Housing policies will align with the adopted comprehensive plan elements in AMC Section 21.01.080.

**Section 4. The Assembly will present a housing policy strategic plan at the Community Housing Action Summit in fall 2023, and work collaboratively with the community to prioritize actionable strategies for the upcoming year.**

**Section 5[4].** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Clerk