

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2023-188(S-1), As Amended**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING**  
2 **A PLAN FOR ALLOWED [~~SANCTIONED~~] CAMPS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY**  
3 **OF ANCHORAGE.**

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4  
5 **WHEREAS**, sanitary, secure and humane resting space is necessary for a person  
6 to lead a healthy, productive life; and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, lack of resting space incurs a great cost upon both the individuals  
9 involved and society at large; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, AMC 25.70.040A.1. prohibits camping on municipal land and AMC  
12 8.45.010 prohibits trespass on both public and private land, which creates a situation  
13 where there is no legal place for individuals to sleep outdoors overnight with or  
14 without a tent or bedding, or during a full 24-hour period; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality does not currently fund or maintain a permanent,  
17 general-population emergency shelter following the closure of the Sullivan Area on  
18 May 1, 2023, and will no longer maintain an emergency shelter for the remaining 90  
19 individuals with complex needs as of May 31, 2023; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, people can become unhoused because they experience a combination  
22 of addiction, mental illness and poverty; or due to a work-related or other serious  
23 accident, inability to pay a medical or vehicle expense, job loss, divorce or  
24 separation; loss of supportive family or friends, or other life circumstances; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, unhoused people in Anchorage, by necessity because of lack of  
27 adequate housing or shelter space, are currently finding somewhere to live in our  
28 green spaces, parks, open spaces and undeveloped parcels; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, living unsheltered in Anchorage's challenging climate and  
31 environmental conditions throughout the year has a profoundly negative social,  
32 environmental, public health and community impact; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, sanitary, secure and humane supported shelter areas significantly  
35 reduce these impacts; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, living unsheltered requires a person to enter survival mode,  
38 dramatically restricts a person's ability to meet their physical and mental needs, gain  
39 employment or attain the personal identification needed to access existing services;  
40 and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, when previously unhoused people have sanitary, secure and humane  
43 [~~sanctioned~~] shelter, with structure and support, they have the energy and time to  
44 access services and move their lives forward; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize that the population experiencing  
2 homelessness has a diversity of needs, including mental health and substance  
3 misuse needs, and as much as possible those needs should be considered during  
4 the planning of allowed [~~sanctioned~~] camps, emergency shelter, and other services;  
5 and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, allowed [~~sanctioned~~] camps are an imperfect solution and should be  
8 seen as a pathway to housing and other needed supports, yet are far preferable to  
9 the unsanctioned, unsanitary, and environmentally-damaging encampments now  
10 impacting green spaces and neighborhoods throughout the Municipality; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, allowed [~~sanctioned~~] camps are [~~not~~] classified as shelter and will have  
13 an [~~no~~] impact on decisions made by the Municipality on abatement; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, although the Sanctioned Camp Community Task Force has not  
16 completed its work, the task force, in order to get the various necessary Municipal  
17 processes moving forward, put forward the below immediate needs  
18 recommendations, with a final report due on July 6 which will provide additional  
19 planning information to support these efforts.  
20

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**  
22

23 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly supports relying on AMC subsection  
24 25.70.040A.1. to designate one area for a [~~s that allow~~] Municipally allowed  
25 [~~sanctioned~~] camps at [~~some or all~~] the Municipally owned location[s] listed in the  
26 section[s] below [~~based on feasibility~~]. [~~The Assembly calls on the Administration~~  
27 ~~and managing agencies of municipal land to designate areas for sanctioned~~  
28 ~~camping consistent with this resolution.~~] **[In addition, the Anchorage Assembly**  
29 **supports requesting the landowners of the privately owned locations listed in**  
30 **the sections below consider the feasibility of setting up sanctioned camps on**  
31 **their property, if legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.]**  
32

33 **Section 2.** The Anchorage Assembly requests all community councils to provide us  
34 with their preferred location for an allowed camp site by November 1, 2023 for  
35 possible consideration during summer of 2024 [~~1) a sanctioned camp site and/or 2)~~  
36 ~~emergency shelter by July 15].~~  
37

38 **Section 3.** The Anchorage Assembly supports creating a working group  
39 composed of staff of both the Legislative and Executive branches to foster  
40 community partnerships to assist in improving the living conditions and reducing the  
41 neighborhood impacts at current established prohibited encampments.  
42

43 [~~The Municipality shall ensure that as much as practical and feasible, whether~~  
44 ~~through community assistance or direct funding, the following services for~~  
45 ~~individuals at the locations listed in the sections below are available:~~

- 46 ● ~~regular clinical and support services as determined by need of the~~  
47 ~~population staying at each camp~~
- 48 ● ~~potable water~~
- 49 ● ~~sanitation~~

- 1           • ~~harm reduction, to include sharps containers and Narcan~~
- 2           • ~~electricity~~
- 3           • ~~food~~
- 4           • ~~gathering space~~
- 5           • ~~accessible by all providers, i.e. an open campus~~
- 6           • ~~security, to include adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife~~
- 7           • ~~and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry~~
- 8           • ~~and exit points~~
- 9           • ~~action and mitigation oriented good neighbor agreement between~~
- 10          • ~~providers and nearby community councils~~
- 11          • ~~raised tree canopies of 6 to 8 feet for any wooded campsites~~
- 12          • ~~Wi-fi or other internet accessibility~~
- 13          • ~~Structural support for tents, to include wooden pallets or other~~
- 14          • ~~platforms to allow tents to be off the ground and adequate rain~~
- 15          • ~~protection~~
- 16          • ~~fire suppression devices will be available on each camp site~~
- 17          • ~~animal deterrents will be available on each camp site~~
- 18          • ~~Mitigation of off-site impacts~~
- 19          • ~~As appropriate, a women's, families with children, or other vulnerable~~
- 20          • ~~populations only designated area should be considered~~

21 ~~**Section 4.** The Anchorage Assembly calls on the Administration to request up to~~  
 22 ~~6[9] Anchorage School District relocatable or portable buildings to be used as~~  
 23 ~~described in the sections below and to bring forward an Assembly Resolution for~~  
 24 ~~consideration to allow for the Municipality to accept these assets. In addition, we~~  
 25 ~~request the Municipal administration to complete a structural review of these~~  
 26 ~~facilities to determine their condition and choose up to 6[9] most ready for habitation~~  
 27 ~~and usage. Finally, we request the Administration bring forward an ordinance to~~  
 28 ~~allow these structures to be used as outlined in the sections below.]~~

29  
 30 ~~**Section 4[5].** The Anchorage Assembly supports [calls on the Administration to]~~  
 31 ~~bringing forward an appropriation document for consideration to acquire 30 [up to~~  
 32 ~~90] temporary structures on an impermanent foundation[Pallet Shelters as a sole~~  
 33 ~~source purchase from Pallet].~~

34  
 35 ~~**Section 5[6].** The Anchorage Assembly supports bringing [calls on the~~  
 36 ~~Administration to request Habitat for Humanity, the State Department of~~  
 37 ~~Corrections, and any other interested parties to construct tiny homes to be used as~~  
 38 ~~described in the sections below and to bring forward an Assembly Resolution for~~  
 39 ~~consideration to allow for the Municipality to accept these assets. In addition, we~~  
 40 ~~request the Administration bring] forward an ordinance to, specific only to Pallet~~  
 41 ~~Shelters [tiny homes] within the allowed [sanctioned] camp site[s] listed below,~~  
 42 ~~temporarily waive any Title 21, Land Use, and Title 23, Building Safety,~~  
 43 ~~requirements which would hinder the usage of these structures and which waiver~~  
 44 ~~would not subject its occupants to unreasonable risk to life and safety.~~

45  
 46 ~~**Section 6[7].** The Anchorage Assembly requests support from community~~  
 47 ~~members, advocacy and civic groups, non-profit and philanthropic organizations,~~  
 48 ~~and for-profit businesses to work collaboratively with the Municipality to make this~~

1 ~~*pilot allowed camp site successful so the Municipality [reduce the burden of the*~~  
2 ~~*Municipality so we]*~~ may prioritize our limited resources on both the 2023-2024  
3 Emergency Cold Weather Winter Plan and standing up a new permanent year-  
4 round low-barrier shelter as outlined in AR 2023-97, As Amended, a resolution  
5 adopting the Clean Slate Strategy.

6  
7 ~~**Section 8.** *The Anchorage Assembly respectfully requests private landowners with*~~  
8 ~~*large vacant or unused parking lots to consider sponsoring a sanctioned camp site,*~~  
9 ~~*if legal to do so in compliance with municipal code.]*~~

10  
11 ~~**Section 7/9/.** *The Anchorage Assembly requests the Administration put out a quick-*~~  
12 ~~*turnaround RFP or waive Title 7 requirements to solicit an operator for the allowed*~~  
13 ~~*camp below [providers/operators for sanctioned camps. No more than two*~~  
14 ~~*sanctioned camp locations should be managed by a single provider].*~~

15  
16 ~~**Section 10.** *In Assembly District 5, East Anchorage, the Municipality supports*~~  
17 ~~*usage of Centennial Park Campground as a sanctioned camp under the following*~~  
18 ~~*parameters:*~~

- 19 ● ~~*50 to 75 individuals*~~
- 20 ● ~~*Start date of June 19[May 31], 2023*~~
- 21 ● ~~*Closure date of September 4, 2023, which is the traditional closure*~~  
22 ~~*date of the campground*~~
- 23 ● ~~*Tents should be limited only to established campsites*~~
- 24 ● ~~*Serve a single adult population*~~
- 25 ● ~~*Run as low barrier location with structured supports to begin and*~~  
26 ~~*transition to an intentional camp*~~
- 27 ● ~~*1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or*~~  
28 ~~*as office space*~~

29  
30 ~~**Section 11.** *In Assembly District 6, South Anchorage, the Municipality supports*~~  
31 ~~*usage of 1805 Academy as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:*~~

- 32 ● ~~*20 to 40 individuals*~~
- 33 ● ~~*Start date of June 19[May 31], 2023*~~
- 34 ● ~~*Year-round operation or until such time as the building can no*~~  
35 ~~*longer be occupied*~~
- 36 ● ~~*Serve as a transition for individuals currently staying at the Sullivan*~~  
37 ~~*Arena who do not have a plan come May 31, 2023*~~
- 38 ● ~~*Run as low barrier location with structured supports*~~
- 39 ● ~~*Make use of 10 of the rooms in the building for habitation*~~
- 40 ● ~~*Up to 2 ASD relocatable buildings placed on site to be used for*~~  
41 ~~*habitation or for service providers*~~

42  
43 ~~**Section 12.** *In Assembly District 3, West Anchorage, the Municipality supports*~~  
44 ~~*usage of the land around the Clitheroe Center as a sanctioned camp under the*~~  
45 ~~*following parameters:*~~

- 46 ● ~~*30 to 40 individuals*~~
- 47 ● ~~*Start date of June 19[May 31], 2023*~~
- 48 ● ~~*Closure date of September 1, 2024*~~
- 49 ● ~~*Allow park in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in the*~~

- ~~parking lot or in tents on land around the facility~~
- ~~• Building should not be used for habitation~~
  - ~~• Serve a single adult population~~
  - ~~• Run as a dry, or non-substance use, location~~
  - ~~• Plan for transportation needs considering the distance of this location~~
  - ~~1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space]~~

**Section 8[13].** In Assembly District 4, Midtown Anchorage, the Municipality supports usage of the vacant land at 40<sup>th</sup> Ave and Denali, the former National Archives site, as an allowed [~~sanctioned~~] camp under the following parameters:

- ~~30 to 60~~[~~50 to 75~~] individuals
- Start date of July 17 [~~June 19~~][~~May 31~~], 2023
- Closure date of September 1, 2024
- Allow park-in area for individuals to sleep in their vehicles in a designated space or in tents during[~~and~~] transition to temporary structures on an impermanent foundation[~~Pallet Shelters~~] [~~and tiny homes~~]
- Serve a single adult population
- Run as a low barrier location
- Regular clinical and support services as determined by need of the population staying at this site
- Potable water
- Adequate sanitation
- Harm reduction, to include sharps containers and Narcan
- Electricity
- Food
- Gathering space
- Accessible by all providers, i.e. an open campus
- Security, to include but not limited to adequate fencing to protect campers from wildlife and other dangers, and an access plan, including established entry and exit points
- Action and mitigation oriented good neighbor agreement between the selected provider and the Midtown Community Council
- Prohibition of fires within the site
- Clearing of any trees which might cause wildfire dangers
- Wi-fi or other internet accessibility
- Structural support for tents, to include wooden pallets or other platforms to allow tents to be off the ground and adequate rain protection
- Fire suppression devices
- Animal deterrents
- Mitigation of off-site impacts
- [~~1 ASD relocatable building placed on site for service providers or as office space]~~

~~**Section 14.** In Assembly District 1, North Anchorage, the Municipality supports~~

~~usage of the vacant land that was formerly Viking Drive from Reeve Blvd to Commercial Drive as a sanctioned camp under the following parameters:~~

- ~~• 50 to 75 individuals~~
- ~~• Start date of **June 19**[**May 31**], 2023~~
- ~~• Closure date of August 1, 2023~~
- ~~• Tents only~~
- ~~• Serve a single adult population~~
- ~~• Run as a low barrier location~~
- ~~• 1 ASD relocatable building placed on site, if feasible, for service providers or as office space~~

~~**Section 15. The Anchorage Assembly requests the administration reach out to private landowners who have large plots of vacant land within the Municipality to determine their interest in setting up a sanctioned camp.** [THE MUNICIPALITY: 1) SUPPORTS REQUESTING COOK INLET REGION, INC. (CIRI) CONSIDER THE LAND AT C ST AND 100TH AVE AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 3, WEST ANCHORAGE, 2) SUPPORTS REQUESTING PACIFIC NORTHERN ACADEMY CONSIDER THE USAGE OF THE LAND AROUND THE FORMER ALASKA NATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL AT 550 BRAGAW AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1, NORTH ANCHORAGE, AND 3) SUPPORTS REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA CONSIDER THE USAGE OF THE EAGLE RIVER CAMPGROUND AS A SANCTIONED CAMP IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2, EAGLE RIVER / CHUGIAK.]~~

~~**Section 9/16].** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.~~

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 6th day of June, 2023.

*Christh Cordell*

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Chair

ATTEST:

*Barbara A. Jones*

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Municipal Clerk



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 458-2023

Meeting Date: June 6, 2023

1 **From: Assembly Member Rivera**

2  
3 **Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**  
4 **SUPPORTING A PLAN FOR ALLOWED [~~SANCTIONED~~] CAMPS**  
5 **WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
6

7 This memorandum describes the S-1 and S-2 versions of the Resolution that were  
8 laid on the table at the June 6, 2023 Assembly meeting. The two versions are quite  
9 similar, but have a substantial difference relevant to the Municipality's prohibited  
10 campsite abatement policy and how it perceives the availability of space at an  
11 allowed camp site. Both make numerous edits from AR 2023-188(S) and to ensure  
12 readability and clarity for my colleagues and the public I've had clean versions  
13 without any legislative drafting markup created and attached to this memorandum.  
14

15 Both the (S-1) and (S-2) incorporate the following changes from the (S) version:

- 16 - Instead of "sanctioned camps" the term "allowed camps" is used.
- 17 - Removes all identified sites for allowed camp sites except one, the former  
18 National Archives site located at 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Denali Streets. The list of  
19 services to be provided is moved from former Section 3 to the section with  
20 the 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Denali location, and the targeted start date is changed to  
21 July 17.
- 22 - Extends the date for all community councils to provide a preferred location  
23 for an allowed camp to November 1, 2023, for consideration during summer  
24 of 2024.
- 25 - New section Section 3, supports a working group to focus on current  
26 prohibited encampments.
- 27 - Removes the section about relocatable buildings from the school district.
- 28 - Reduces the number of Pallet Shelters requested from 90 to 30.
- 29 - Removes the section asking private landowners to consider sponsoring an  
30 allowed camp.  
31

32 The (S-1) version sets the premise in the Whereas paragraph on p. 2 line 15 that  
33 allowed camps are considered available shelter space for purposes of deciding to  
34 abate prohibited campsites. This means under *Martin v. Boise*, 920 F.3d 584 (9<sup>th</sup>  
35 Cir. 2019), if camp site space is available at the allowed camp site, the Municipality  
36 may proceed to abate prohibited campsites regardless if there are no available  
37 overnight indoor shelter beds.  
38

39 The (S-2) version is based on a different premise, in the same Whereas paragraph  
40 it adopts the position that allowed camps and available sites are not contemplated  
41 in the Municipality's abatement process, and will not result in any change in current  
42 prohibited campsite abatements. To reinforce that premise, a new Section 4 is

1 included that declares the Assembly's support for an ordinance that makes it clear  
2 allowed camp site available space should not be considered when deciding whether  
3 to abate prohibited camp sites.  
4

5  
6 **I request your support for the (S-1) or (S-2) versions of the Resolution.**  
7

8 Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office  
9

10 Respectfully submitted: Felix Rivera, Assembly Member  
11 District 4 – Midtown Anchorage  
12

13 Attachments: AR 2023-188(S-1) CLEAN Sample document.  
14 AR 2023-188(S-2) CLEAN Sample document.