

Downtown Community Council

A Resolution Requesting the Municipality of Anchorage fulfill its responsibilities to effectively manage publicly owned land and facilities

Resolution 2024-05

Whereas, the purpose of Community Councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of participating in the government process and local affairs, and

Whereas, Community Councils are recognized in Anchorage's Home Rule Charter (Article VIII. Community Councils, Section 8.01 Establishment and Procedures) and the Assembly authorizes each council by ordinance, and

Whereas, the Municipal Charter states Community Councils are to afford citizens an opportunity for maximum community involvement and self-determination, and

Whereas, the Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 2.40 Community Councils, 2.40.020 Purpose of Chapter states the intent of Councils are to; give people a means to work together in a manner that will have an impact on their community development and services, give governmental agencies a method for receiving opinions, needs, desires and recommendations of residents and groups, and give local governing bodies an improved basis for decision-making that establishes priorities affecting community development and individual well-being, and

Whereas, Anchorage Assembly District 1 is composed of the following Community Councils either in total or in part; Downtown, Government Hill, Mountain View, Fairview, South Addition, North Star and Midtown, and

Whereas, citizens and property owners within the Assembly District 1 area have expressed on-going concerns about the effectiveness of Municipality management policies relating to abusive behaviors by homeless individuals on public lands and facilities, and

Whereas, the abusive behaviors occurring on public lands negatively impacts community development and individual well-being of the citizenry, weakens the common good and increases costs for property owners and businesses, and

Whereas, the Municipal Administration is tasked with day-to-day implementation of Municipal Ordinances achieved through administrative and management processes, and

Whereas, Title 8 Penal Code of the Anchorage Municipal Code identifies offenses against persons, theft offenses, offenses against property, weapon offenses, offenses against public order, alcohol and drug offenses, prostitution and trafficking, and other offenses against people and property, and

Whereas, Anchorage Municipal Code 15.20 addresses public nuisances. The purpose of this code section is to "ensure that public nuisances are prevented, discontinued, and abated in a timely manner and do not reoccur." AMC 15.20.005. Defined nuisances that have been present on the Municipality's land include: discarded and improperly disposed of solid and liquid waste, storage of garbage, excessive litter, wastewater and other discharges, unsightly premises, abandoned vehicles, the discharge of soot, fumes and gases, and prohibited campsites, and

Whereas, particular attention should be given to the large Heritage Land Bank parcel at 3rd and Ingra, Davis Park, Cuddy Park, our Greenbelts, Parks and public rights-of-way in the urban core, and

Whereas, the role of Community Councils is to inform local government of instances where Municipal actions on public lands are creating on-going adverse and negative impacts on the citizenry and businesses adjoining public properties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Downtown Community Council formally requests the Municipality to cease and desist in its on-going enablement of negative behaviors that violate Title 8 and Title 15 of the Municipal Code, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Downtown Community Council requests the Municipality to develop appropriate policies and solutions that allow for more effective management oversight of public lands within the Assembly District 1 area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Downtown Community Council strongly supports positive and constructive actions to mitigate public nuisances on public lands at the earliest possible opportunity with particular attention to addressing community concerns prior to closure of emergency winter shelter facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Downtown Community Council encourages the Municipality to conduct robust due diligence on the option of dispersed and well-managed sanctioned camps as an alternative to the ongoing abuse of our public lands.

Downtown Community Council members

____ Approved

____ Disapproved

This resolution by a vote of ____ Ayes ____ Nays ____ Abstentions.

Attested this ____ day of _____, 20____.

President
Downtown Community Council

Draft