ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2020-149

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE
MAYOR’S ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY ISSUE NOTICES AND CLEAR
SIGNIFICANT PROHIBITED ENCAMPMENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY.

WHEREAS, prohibited encampments have been persistently present on the
properties near the corner of 3rd Avenue and Ingra Street, along the Chester
Creek Trail between Ingra Street to Arctic Boulevard, and other significant
encampments throughout the Municipality that have been established during the
winter months;

WHEREAS, the residents of the nearby neighborhoods report a sharp increase in
significant negative secondary effects and problems related to the presence of the
camps since the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared, including but
not limited to drug use, excessive litter, violence and neighborhood vandalism;

WHEREAS, it has been the policy of the Municipality to notice and abate
prohibited camps on public property when adequate overnight shelter capacity
exists for the inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality may proceed to clear prohibited camps under
Anchorage Municipal Code subsection 15.20.020B.15., “Prohibited campsites,” or
under AMC subsection 25.10.060B.1. which recognizes the Municipality’s right to
close municipal land to the public to clean and clear it;

WHEREAS, under AMC subsection 15.20.020B.15., in these circumstances the
Municipality must provide a 72-hour or a 10-day notice of campsite or zone
abatement, and required outreach;

WHEREAS, the Municipality opened mass shelters on or about March 9, 2020 to
shelter individuals experiencing homelessness in response to the COVID-19
emergency;

WHEREAS, since then, there have consistently been over 100 vacant shelter
beds each night, in the total shelter bed capacity in the Municipality; for example
there is more than 784 shelter bed capacity in the city but on April 23 only 573
were occupied, with 211 vacancies;

WHEREAS, the prohibited camps do not have access to toilets, water sources for
handwashing, or showers, and the residents are observed not to be practicing
social distancing;

WHEREAS, the Municipality usually begins a robust abatement and camp clean-
up process in May using Parks and Recreation seasonal employees, but in certain circumstances has paid for private contractors to remove camps during the winter season;

WHEREAS, at present there is not a plan from the Administration to provide off-season for notice, abatement and clean up of the camps present on the identified locations; now, therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

The Administration should immediately (1) post abatement notices or closure of Municipal property; (2) utilize the Mobile Intervention Team or other Municipal staff, including Anchorage Police Department employees, to provide notice and outreach to the occupants of the camps, (3) abate the prohibited camp sites, and (4) contract the appropriate personnel to clean the camps. The Municipality should also post “No Camping” signs and close the 3rd Avenue and Ingra area to prevent a re-establishment of prohibited camps.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _______ day of ______________, 2020.

Chair
ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk