

Minutes of Midtown Community Council Meeting

June 26, 2019

3000 C STREET, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The May meeting was called to order at 12:03pm and the May minutes were approved unanimously.

**Reports of State Officials:** Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson and Representative Harriet Drummond were both present at the start of the meeting but had to leave to attend another meeting with the State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. Senator Gray-Jackson spoke upon the upcoming Special Legislative Session, while Representative Drummond explained the cost savings on holding the Session in Juneau rather than Wasilla.

**Reports of Local Officials:** Assembly members Felix Rivera and Meg Zaletel were present. The Assembly Meeting considered trash ordinances for bears, redistricting, onsite consumption for marijuana (and how it relates to second-hand smoking), and tax relief for properties with fire damage. Assembly Member Zaletel is the chair of the Homeless Committee and will work with the Anchorage Police Department to put the Council in touch with the beat officer that is assigned to the Midtown area.

**Reports of Councils:** The Council's Executive Board met and continued discussions on board assignment changes.

**Presentations:** There were no presentations.

**Hearing Notices:** There were no notices.

**Old Business:** Council Member Tim Potter updated the Council on Mom & Pops and how the business is not in compliance with the Council's MOU (e.g., marking products, pricing, purchase limits).

**New Business:** The Council proposed a from the Council to address homelessness, public vagrancy, and responsiveness from the Anchorage Police Department. The Council entertained a great deal of public comments from council and public members (the meeting was very well attended). Discussions included business owners paying for more security infrastructure, tenants and visitors not feeling safe at work or home, the affects of homelessness on the local waterways (Dave Morgan). Residents and business owners expressed feeling like the police department is not doing enough to combat this activity, and some social services organizations described the difficulty in homelessness' access to basic needs such as hygiene which makes it difficult to gain employment.

Council Member Potter motioned to postpone final action on the recommendation to the next regularly scheduled meeting (August), which was seconded by Council Member Albert Circosta. The motion passed 9-4. The objection came from members who were frustrated with crime and homelessness and did not want to wait (one individual had to tear down his rental property due to damage from squatters and was having trouble getting help from the police).

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34pm.