

Minutes of Midtown Community Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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

**Reports of State Officials:** Senator Gardner and Representative Drummond were not present due to the Fourth Special Legislative Session underway in Juneau. Staff to each were present on the legislator's behalf.

**Reports of Local Officials:** Anchorage Assemblymen Dick Traini and Felix Rivera summarized the previous Assembly meeting. Assemblyman Rivera discussed the Loussac Library staffing reductions, Four A's Syringe Access Program, and homeless camp evictions. The homeless camp eviction window is proposed to be reduced from 15 to 10 days, but there have been issues with Muni Parks & Rec enforcement and cleanup, as well as definitions of "camps." Assemblyman Traini predicts ACLU pushback on that reduction; he also informed the Council that his gasoline tax proposal passed, and is expected to raise approx. \$14.1 million after going into effect in March, 2018.

**Reports of Councils:** There were no reports.

**Presentations:** A presentation on the upcoming W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave & E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave Upgrades was made to the Council. The Municipality is currently evaluating the project, which will provide better pedestrian and bike access, accessibility improvements, landscaping and lighting upgrades, and much more. The presenter provided information about the upcoming project Open House and invited the members to attend.

**Hearing Notices:** Hearing notices were provided to the members regarding upcoming liquor licenses and the transfer of Municipal Marijuana License for Broken Dirt, LLC. A member raised concerns about the marijuana smells emanating from the business, and praised the current owner for his response and corrective action; the member hopes the new owner will continue to address these concerns as well.

**By-Laws Adoption:** Ric Davidge motioned to adopt the Midtown Community Council By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Kirk Hastain, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Property Tax Exemption:** The Council was provided with an Exemption Summary table with information on property tax emptions in the Municipality. This continues the discussion from the previous meeting; the Council discussed a possible audit of these exemptions, to review and evaluate whether they are still necessary, appropriate, and complaint.

**Senate Bill 54 Discussion:** Senate Bill 54, which amends the problematic Senate Bill 91 from the 2016 Legislative Sessions. Representative Millett's office supplied a bullet-point overview of the House changes to the bill. There was nothing more to report, as the bill is currently under consideration by the Senate. The council also discussed the surge in meth abuse and pain clinics/opioid epidemic.

**Sears Mall:** A representative from the Sears Mall provided an update about the Nordstrom Rack ordinance and the problems with access from the mall, and the access problems people have traveling between that store and the rest of the mall. REI is reported to be considering taking over the space that Carrs vacated.

**Homeless Resolution:** Kenny Peterson will introduce a resolution regarding the homeless population at the next meeting, to allow for more time to present the idea and have the Council discuss.

**December Meeting:** The December meeting is TBA.