

Concrete Actions the Municipality Should Take Now to Stop Illegal Camping

1. Add a public health and safety component to the 2018 Strategic Action Plan of the Anchorage Community Plan to End Homelessness (and all future such plans).
2. Clearly post existing code prohibitions against camping on public lands to enable swift abatement of camps occurring in posted areas.
3. Hire or assign a Parks & Rec code enforcement officer to continuously monitor public spaces to identify illegal camps.
4. Expand the Mobile Intervention Team (MIT) to 7 days/week so illegal camps can be noticed quickly and entrenched encampments cannot be developed.
5. Amend municipal code to allow more efficient "zone" notices in areas of illegal camp concentrations rather than requiring individual notices on each tent/camp.
6. Amend municipal code (AMC 15.20.020.B.15.c.iii) to more narrowly define "personal property" of illegal campers in accord with court guidance to exclude items which deter camp abatement (generators, collections of propane tanks, etc.)
7. Amend municipal code (AMC 16.120.020) to allow utilization of "cold weather" shelter alternatives year round to assure alternative housing is available for campers displaced by camp abatements and fund more shelter beds if needed.
8. Amend municipal code (AMC 25.70.040.A.2 & 25.70.050 & 25.70.060.O) to allow confiscation of materials used for illegal fires in illegal camps in public space **and** to allow immediate abatement of camps violating fire codes as public safety risks.
9. Enforce existing code prohibitions on open burns and use of cooking appliances and fuels (such as propane stoves, grills, wood stoves) outside of designated areas.
10. Develop an economical and efficient means of storing "personal property" of campers (such as providing 64 gal "bins" to hold property) so camps can be abated & cleaned up without delay using the 72 hour notice process allowed in municipal code (AMC 15.20.020.B.15.b.i).
11. Begin immediately publishing routine and complete reports on all illegal camps identified and actions taken to remove them (including when they were identified, noticed, abated, and cleaned) so Municipal actions are transparent and accountable to citizens. Make the data searchable online by citizens.

12. Establish a comprehensive plan for removing low brush, particularly invasive species, along our trail system to create a more open understory with better sight lines making our green spaces less inviting and encampments harder to hide.