

**A Resolution regarding the increased negative impacts due to lack of adequate shelter for unhoused individuals and the responsibility of Municipal leadership to act**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA) plan to close the Sullivan Arena in summer 2022 as a mass care shelter site with no viable alternative, and then the decision to reopen it in fall 2022 with a cap of 200 individuals has limited low-barrier overnight options for unhoused individuals; **and**

**WHEREAS** the Sullivan Arena and all other low-barrier shelters in the MOA are at capacity each night; **and**

**WHEREAS** the administration's short-sighted and poorly executed closure of the Sullivan Arena this summer has directly contributed to the MOA's inability to abate unlawful encampments on public lands even when they pose a hazard to campers themselves, nearby residents, and businesses alike; **and**

**WHEREAS** the North Star Community Council covers neighborhoods and trails heavily impacted by an obvious increase not only in the number of outdoor encampments, but the size, footprint, and accumulated material in and around camps; **and**

**WHEREAS** these large campsites are near our neighborhood's schools, public facilities, and walking thoroughfares, and have no basic resources including food storage, toilet facilities, or trash removal. Neighbors in North Star have noticed an increase in trespassing, trash, and calls for medical assistance; **and**

**WHEREAS** North Star Elementary School students have found used needles in the playground and the school has experienced gun violence on its property in recent months due to increased foot traffic and has had unhoused individuals in crisis enter the building during school hours seeking assistance; **and**

**WHEREAS** the lack of services provided by the MOA - both in shelter beds, transitional housing, and affordable housing has had a direct impact on the aforementioned negative effects; **and**

**WHEREAS** the North Star Community Council has seen positive impacts in our neighborhood of the Sockeye Inn being repurposed for temporary housing for chronically ill individuals who are experiencing homelessness through a partnership with Catholic Social Services and are supportive of appropriate housing managed by experienced service providers; **and**

**WHEREAS** since unlawful camp abatement is not possible in the current circumstances, the North Star Community Council and other CCs in the Municipality have little recourse against the increasing campsites being established in our neighborhoods, which can lead to an increase in illegal activity, medical emergencies, trespassing, trash and waste, and crime; **and**


**WHEREAS** the North Star Community Council cares about the safety of students, residents, local businesses, and our unhoused neighbors and expects our Municipal leadership to address these challenges in a comprehensive way that recognizes their responsibility to those experiencing homelessness, especially in cold winter months.

**NOW THEREFORE THE NSCC LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the residents, through their North Star Community Council, respectfully request that the Anchorage Mayor's office pursue immediate plans to increase both temporary and long-term housing as well as shelter beds so that unhoused individuals have adequate options for their needs, and camps in our neighborhood can be abated and reduced over time, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Star Community Council is strongly opposed to the status quo since it is failing to meet the needs of neighborhoods and the unhoused alike, and look to the Mayor and MOA to lead in this moment. To address our Community Council's strong concerns, we formally request a representative from the Anchorage Mayor's Office attend our January 11, 2023 meeting to speak to the administration's future plans regarding this issue.

Passed on December 14, 2022 with 9 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstained votes.

  
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Matt Johnson, Chair, NSCC

  
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Mark Butler, Vice-Chair, NSCC