

Submitted by: Assembly Members
Rivera, Weddleton, and Mayor
Bronson
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel and
Department of Law
For reading: April 26, 2022

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-146

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR’S OFFICE**
2 **REGARDING THE PROPOSED NAVIGATION CENTER AND LOW BARRIER**
3 **SHELTER AT TUDOR AND ELMORE AND TIME LIMITING THE PROPOSAL.**
4

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage defines a “*Navigation Center*” as
7 a Housing First, low-barrier, service enriched environment
8 focused on moving individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent
9 housing that provides temporary living facilities while case
10 managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public
11 benefits, alcohol and drug substance misuse treatment, health services, shelter,
12 and housing; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the proposed Navigation Center will follow a “Housing First” approach
15 that prioritizes permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus
16 ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue
17 personal goals and improve their quality of life; and
18

19 **WHEREAS** the commitment to this approach is guided by the principle that people
20 need necessities like food and a stable place to live before attending to anything
21 less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to behavioral
22 health issues; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the commitment to Housing First is based on the principle that client
25 choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that
26 exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed
27 and improving their life; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality will employ the five keys of effective emergency
30 sheltering at the emergency shelter co-located with the proposed Navigation Center:
31 (1) Housing First approach, (2) safe and appropriate diversion, (3) immediate and
32 low barrier access, (4) housing-focused rapid exit, and (5) data-driven performance
33 measurement, and the Municipality will continue to work with a variety of subject
34 matter experts in designing, implementing and supporting the programs, operations
35 and services at the Navigation Center; and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality acknowledges that emergency shelters and other
38 types of crisis housing (crisis beds, interim housing, motel vouchers) play a critical
39 role in the Municipality’s response to homelessness and that people in a housing

1 crisis will always need a safe and stable place to go that is immediately available;
2 and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to support the community’s goal of reaching
5 functional zero, which is a milestone that indicates a community has measurably
6 ended homelessness for a population — and that success is measured by
7 whether they are driving population-level reductions in homelessness; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to limiting the duration of the proposed
10 Navigation Center to keep the focus on achieving functional zero through housing
11 individuals experiencing homelessness and supporting existing emergency shelter,
12 prevention and housing programs in Anchorage; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality acknowledges that mass care provided by the
15 Municipality is an extraordinary intervention in response to an unprecedented
16 pandemic and that unwinding mass care takes resources and interventions that are
17 time limited to meet the heightened immediate need and that the community’s plan
18 to end homelessness is focused on Housing First; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality commits to prioritize spending one-time funds on the
21 procurement, construction and operation of the proposed Navigation Center and
22 prioritize the recurring funding for housing and homelessness services currently in
23 the Municipality’s budget on supporting existing effective emergency shelter,
24 prevention and housing programs in Anchorage; now, therefore,

25
26
27 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND THE ADMINISTRATION RESOLVES:**

28
29
30 **Section 1.** the Municipality commits to achieving the goals of Housing First and
31 functional zero within 2 years from the date construction is complete and the
32 Navigation Center is fully operational.

33
34 **Section 2.** the Municipality commits to developing a program for low barrier shelter
35 and for a navigation center utilizing both local and national subject matter experts,
36 which (1) utilizes Housing First principles, the five keys to effective low barrier
37 shelter and meets the adopted definition of what constitutes a Navigation Center,
38 (2) join the Navigation Center community of practice, (3) identify a dedicated point
39 person within the Administration to participate and bring additional MOA employees
40 to participate as appropriate and requested, and (4) the program developed by this
41 work group will be used to evaluate responses to any requests for proposals for
42 operators of the low barrier shelter and navigation center at this location.

43
44 **Section 3.** the Municipality commits to ending operations of the Navigation Center
45 once the following has been achieved:

46
47 At any point in time, the number of people experiencing sheltered or
48 unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly
49 housing placement rate for people experiencing homelessness.
50

1 **Section 4.** the Navigation Center is considered an emergency shelter location and
2 use of emergency surge capacity will be activated and deactivated following
3 requirements in AMC chapter 16.120, Emergency Shelter Plan for Homeless
4 Persons.

5
6 **Section 5.** the Municipality calls upon all community partners to work together in
7 achieving the goals of Anchored Home.

8
9
10 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
11 of _____, 2022.

12
13
14
15 _____
Chair of the Assembly

16 ATTEST:

17
18
19 _____
20 Municipal Clerk