



April 9, 2024

Anchorage Assembly Members:

We are writing today in support of AO-2024-26(S), which sets out new restrictions on camping on public land within the Municipality. We believe that this ordinance, if passed, will have positive impacts on downtown Anchorage's public safety and the use of public facilities downtown. We respectfully request the following specific changes to provide clarity and fairness in implementation:

1. **We request that the buffer zone from licensed homeless shelters be changed to 1 mile, uniformly, across the city.** City blocks vary in length in Anchorage and around the country. From our research, it appears that 10 downtown Anchorage city blocks measure around 0.7 miles. We support a uniformly sized buffer distance for all of Anchorage, and request that it be 1 mile, for consistency in implementation throughout the Municipality. Alternatively, we would support rewording this limitation to "10 city blocks or 1 mile, whichever is greater".
2. **We support limiting congregate campsites to 25 structures or 50 people, whichever is fewer.** Structures can vary in size and number of occupants. We support a limitation to 25 structures, with no single campsite exceeding 50 occupants.
3. **We request that a prohibition on camping within the Downtown District be restored.** Campsites within downtown have a higher impact on commerce, tourism, pedestrian accessibility, and perceptions of public safety than do campsites in less dense areas. We support restoring the prohibition on camping with the Downtown District that was originally included in the ordinance.
4. **We request that the phrase "shall support this commitment as resources allow" be removed from the "Municipality of Anchorage Commitment" section.** It is unclear who would decide the availability of resources. We would support replacing this with "These laws shall be enforced to the betterment of safety of the city of Anchorage".
5. **We support the definition of camping in current code and would recommend including or referring to it in this ordinance;** as currently defined, this includes:
 - a. Erection of a tent, lean-to, hut, or other shelter;
 - b. Setting up bedding or equipment in such a manner as to be immediately usable for sleeping purposes, whether indoors or outdoors, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy;
 - c. Sleeping outdoors with or without bedding, tent, tarpaulin, hammock or other similar protection or equipment; or
 - d. Setting up cooking equipment, including a campfire, with the intent to remain in that location overnight.

The Anchorage Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization that manages Anchorage's Downtown Improvement District. We represent 670 separate business and property owners within the Downtown



Improvement District, which stretches 122 city blocks, from 1st to 9th, and from L St. to Gambell. We appreciate the Municipality's efforts to improve public safety and the accessibility of public spaces, and look forward to working alongside the Municipality to continue stewarding downtown Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Radhika Krishna

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Radhika Krishna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Executive Director
Anchorage Downtown Partnership

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