

Presented by: Mayor Botelho
Introduced: 04/03/2006
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2349

A Resolution Expressing Assembly Support for Expanding the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Definition of Homelessness.

WHEREAS, according to the United States Conference of Mayors, in no town, city or state in America can an individual or family working full-time and earning the minimum wage, or receiving assistance under the Supplemental Security Income, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, afford a one- or two-bedroom apartment at the fair market rental rate established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, in its "Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities," the United States Conference of Mayors reports that requests for shelter by families with children went unmet 32 percent of the time in 2005; and 57 percent of reporting cities stated that homeless families may have to break-up in order to find shelter; and

WHEREAS, that status report notes that at least 3,500,000 persons in the United States are likely to experience homelessness during a year, 40 percent of whom are children; and

WHEREAS, families with children who cannot access shelters cannot reasonably consider the streets an option due to child welfare concerns, and therefore stay temporarily with friends or relatives or in motels, frequently moving between locations; and

WHEREAS, children and youth in these living situations face serious risks to their health and well-being, including safety issues and high rates of mobility that disrupt child development; and

WHEREAS, families without stable housing face transportation barriers which make job retention and children's educational continuity difficult; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homelessness excludes people who stay temporarily with others and in motels, thereby denying communities flexibility to address locally assessed needs, and preventing vulnerable populations from receiving the housing assistance they need; and

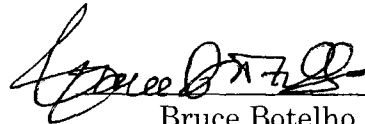
WHEREAS, other federal definitions of homelessness, such as the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act and the Violence Against Women Act, are responsive to families and youth by expressly including people who stay temporarily with others and in motels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, does hereby request that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development include within its definition of homelessness people who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons, and those who are staying in motels because of the lack of adequate alternative accommodations.


Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2006.



Bruce Botelho, Mayor

Attest:


Elizabeth J. McEwen, Deputy Clerk