

MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

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DATE: September 30, 2020
TO: Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee
FROM: Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
SUBJECT: Beginning the Process

Thank you for serving on the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee.

We can all agree that Juneau is experiencing a homelessness problem. With the additional pressure that the COVID -19 pandemic is placing on the homelessness population and on the agencies working to service this population, we can agree that the adequacy of serving this population has been challenged. The purpose of the Homeless Ad Hoc committee is to determine this adequacy in the short term and determine who is being served, which agency is serving them, and how we can coordinate services for those who fall into the gaps.

Juneau has tackled the issue of homelessness many times in the past including a task force set up by Mayor Koelsch. My goal for this Ad Hoc Committee is for dealing with the homelessness population in the wake of the pandemic and figuring out short term solutions. Hopefully, these short term solutions can morph into longer term solutions as well, but your focus will be for the upcoming colder months.

I believe I have set up a committee with a wide array of services and viewpoints and hope that we can figure out the holes in the system that these naturally cause. Remember in answering the charge questions and in your discussions, this task force needs to work on the gaps in services and not change the mission statements of other agencies that provide services. Keeping that in mind will ensure the task force will meet its goal of two to three meetings.

Again, I appreciate the time and effort that will be part of this process. I have faith that the committee will do well in their endeavor.

Let me know if the committee needs any further assistance.

Attachment