

1 By: Lance Roberts
2 Introduced: 12/11/2014
3 Adopted: 12/11/2014
4

5 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

6
7 RESOLUTION NO. 2014- 51
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9 A RESOLUTION URGING MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
10 INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT LEGISLATION REENACTING AND IMPLEMENTING
11 CH. 117, SLA 1990, AN ACT RELATING TO CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS FOR
12 CERTAIN CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY; COURT REVIEW OF CASES RELATING
13 TO CHILDREN; ESTABLISHING THE CITIZENS' REVIEW PANEL FOR
14 PERMANENCY PLANNING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
15

16 WHEREAS, an obvious and clear historical context for public concerns
17 about both perceived and actual harm to children in state custody is amply
18 demonstrated and noticed in our community, not least by The Alaska Senate Family
19 Law Review Task Force proceedings contemporaneous with ch. 117, SLA 1990; and,
20

21 WHEREAS, notwithstanding any claim of state agent mistreatment of
22 children and families, adults and public officials in civilized societies are responsible to
23 act to assure the best obtainable results in all cases of children in state custody; and,
24

25 WHEREAS, appearances of impropriety through efforts to conceal, deny,
26 obstruct or pursue unreasonable litigation to prevail against possible citizen complaints,
27 under the color of law, are counterproductive because any actual such efforts are
28 improper, inhumane, unnecessary, and wasteful of public resources; and,
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30 WHEREAS, citizen complaints against state agents, as well as useful
31 commentary of any kind, including that from state agents themselves, whether
32 substantial or frivolous, should be readily and vigorously acknowledged, examined,
33 corrected, or contradicted, as necessary, but never disregarded, in any case of a child
34 in state custody; and,
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36 WHEREAS, a significantly diminished "Citizen Review" program under
37 current statutes offering numerous perspectives of administrative staff and replacing the
38 prior act of ch. 117, SLA 1990, has shown that the more thorough original review
39 program involving ordinary people with ordinary questions would be unlikely to interfere
40 with proper input of state agents or adjacent experts; and,
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42 WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly has adopted
43 some six other resolutions on this specific subject during the past eighteen years, and
44 aggrieved citizens have properly acted to memorialize the failure to implement ch. 117,
45 SLA 1990 and numerous unreconciled grievances, into perpetuity; and,
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47 WHEREAS, Ch. 117, SLA 1990 required a comprehensive empirical
48 methodology to review each case of a child in state custody for any reason, through the
49 specific case plan for that child every six months; did not require unnecessarily
50 complex, duplicative, or disruptive activity; would have afforded a confidential
51 opportunity for parties to individual cases a brief hearing as to whether written plans are
52 congruent with actual circumstances; and result in a meaningful report of useful
53 statistical information for future planning or other public purposes.
54

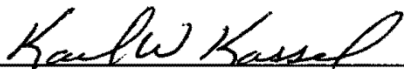
55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the
56 Fairbanks North Star Borough respectfully urges members of the Alaska Legislature,
57 especially the Interior Delegation, to introduce and support legislation reenacting and
58 implementing ch. 117, SLA 1990 in a substantially similar form as the original act with
59 only minor necessary textual changes improving scrutiny of state agencies, or to
60 update.
61

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly urges and asks the
63 Governor of Alaska to support legislation through legislative committees and in any
64 available venue if necessary, to reenact and implement in very substantially similar form
65 ch. 117, SLA 1990.
66

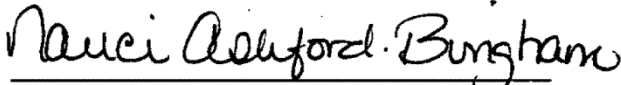
67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests and urges
68 Alaska's Congressional Delegation to cooperate and collaborate to ensure that Alaska's
69 Citizen Review Panel for Permanency Planning--originally created by ch. 117, SLA
70 1990--is fully recognized to be in compliance with all applicable federal requirements
71 and exists as an appropriate example for other states and localities.
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73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to
74 those officials mentioned above, as well as to any other interested parties upon
75 reasonable request.
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77 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014.


Karl Kassel
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Nanci Ashford-Bingham, MMC
Borough Clerk

78
79 Ayes: Lawrence, Roberts, Golub, Hutchison, Quist, Dodge, Davies, Kassel
80 Noes: None
81 Excused: Sattley