

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2019-434(S-2)\*, As Amended**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY DECLARING  
ITS OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED OR OPERATED  
PRISONS FOR DETENTION OR INCARCERATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY, OR  
OF ANY ALASKAN INMATES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution, Art. I, § 12, requires criminal administration to be based upon “the need for protecting the public, community condemnation of the offender, the rights of victims of crimes, restitution from the offender, and the principle of reformation”; and

**WHEREAS**, the incarceration of convicted offenders involves humane care and treatment, and effective reformation and rehabilitative programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the ability to fulfill our constitutional duty is not aided by placement of inmates outside the State of Alaska, nor in privately owned or operated prison systems that do not understand the Alaskan Constitutional directives and undercut the ability to provide a degree of custody, care, restitution, and discipline expected by Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS**, *the Municipality is currently required to pay the State of Alaska \$2,928,000 annually for use of its correctional facilities; and*

**WHEREAS**, it is important for inmates to have the potential for contact with supportive family and friends in order to foster and achieve the rehabilitative and reformatory constitutional goals of the Alaska criminal justice system, and those are not facilitated by privately operated prisons, or “correctional institutions” as defined in Title 21 of the Anchorage Municipal Code, excluding correctional community residential centers (or halfway houses), especially when located out of state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska legislature appropriated \$16.7M in the 2020 budget to reopen the Palmer Correctional Center facility with a focus on treatment programs that are needed, it is imperative to recognize that research has shown that contracting with private for-profit prisons does not save money, and instead has an increased social cost as inmates placed in out of state facilities return with increased gang affiliations, a greater propensity for a “criminal mind set,” and violent behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, other states and local jurisdictions have contracted with private, for-profit corporations for operation of correctional facilities and institutions but did not


\* Note: Legislative drafting formatting not applied to changes in the (S-2) from previous versions.

1 experience reduced recidivism, better reentry, cost savings, or other expected  
2 benefits; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, Alaska has shown its preference for in-state, state operated,  
5 adequately staffed correctional facilities and institutions, by building the Goose  
6 Creek Correctional Center in 2012, passing Senate Bill 65 in 2006, and by  
7 rejecting the building of a private prison Anchorage in 1997, Delta Junction in  
8 1999, Kenai in 2001, and Whittier in 2005; now, therefore,

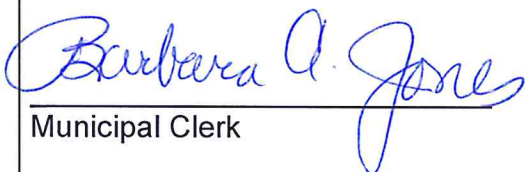
9  
10 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES**, to recommend that the State open  
11 the Palmer Correctional Center facility especially in light of the \$16.7M allocated for  
12 this purpose, opposes the placement of Alaskan inmates out of state, opposes the  
13 State contracting with privately owned or operated detention or correctional facilities  
14 for placement of prisoners either in state or out of state private prisons, and opposes  
15 the establishment and operation of any privately owned or operated prison facility  
16 within the Municipality of Anchorage.

17  
18  
19 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 17th day of December,  
20 2019.

21  
22  
23  
24 

25 Chair

26 ATTEST:

27  
28   
29  
30

Municipal Clerk