

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Introduced: 3/16/01

Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to a diverse community; condemning a recent racially motivated attack; and**
2 **requesting the Municipality of Anchorage police department to conduct a conclusive**
3 **investigation and to take rapid action against the perpetrators.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** Anchorage is an incredibly diverse community with more than eighteen
6 identified ethnic groups comprising nearly 30 percent of its population; and

7 **WHEREAS** the growth rate of Anchorage minority groups exceeds the growth rate of
8 nonminorities; and

9 **WHEREAS** more than 20 percent of the Alaska Native and Native American
10 population of the state resides in Anchorage; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Anchorage economy is highly dependent on the economic
12 contributions of the Alaska Native population and the bush communities; and

13 **WHEREAS** Anchorage has made and continues to make a concerted effort to build
14 bridges with and among the various ethnic groups and to eliminate racial tension and conflict
15 in the city; and

1 **WHEREAS** the recent incident involving targeting of Alaska Natives for harassment
2 and violent action by three youthful Anchorage residents armed with paintball guns is
3 deplorable and reflects badly on every citizen and business of Anchorage and the State of
4 Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** federal law 18 U.S.C. 245 makes it illegal to commit a crime when the
6 assailant is motivated by bias based on race, religion, national origin, or color and the
7 assailant intended to prevent the victim from exercising a "federally protected right"; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska law AS 12.55.155(c)(22) provides as an aggravating factor for
9 sentencing for a serious crime that "the defendant knowingly directed the conduct constituting
10 the offense at a victim because of that person's race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental
11 disability, ancestry, or national origin," and the finding of an aggravating factor allows the
12 court to increase a presumptive sentence for such an offense up to the maximum sentence for
13 that offense; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature does not condone and will not tolerate hate
15 crimes;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns the recent racially
17 motivated attack in Anchorage; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Municipality
19 of Anchorage police department to continue its thorough and conclusive investigation of that
20 attack so as to allow the swift prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds the conduct of those
22 perpetrating this abhorrent act, and any similar conduct, to be unacceptable; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the perpetrators, and anyone else committing hate
24 crimes, in addition to any penalties meted out by the criminal justice system, should be
25 required to complete cultural and social sensitivity training and do regular, recurring
26 community service in an environment that brings them into close contact with the minority
27 groups the perpetrators have targeted; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature is pledged to support fair
29 and equitable treatment for all who live in, do business in, or visit Alaska.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Wuerch, Mayor of
31 Anchorage; and to the members of the Anchorage Assembly.