

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN, Cissna, Gruenberg

Introduced: 2/22/12

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Municipality of Anchorage to designate and help develop a portion of the**
2 **Muldoon Estates Subdivision as a park.**

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

4 **WHEREAS**, on October 24, 2006, the Anchorage Assembly unanimously passed
5 Assembly Ordinance No. 2006 - 149(S) authorizing the purchase of property then legally
6 described as Tract B, Muldoon Estates Subdivision, also known as the "old Alaska
7 Greenhouse property," which is generally located between Muldoon Road to the west, the
8 military reservation to the east, Debarr Road to the north, and 14th Avenue to the south; and

9 **WHEREAS**, before the foreclosure process that led to the purchase of the property by
10 the Municipality of Anchorage, Tract B, Muldoon Estates Subdivision was home to the
11 Alaska Greenhouse and was operated and maintained as a private park and recreation facility;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the Anchorage Assembly has already designated the easternmost 12
14 acres of the property as a park; and

15 **WHEREAS**, even though the property remains undeveloped and unmaintained,
16 nearby residents use the property for recreational activities, including hiking, cross-country

1 skiing, dog walking, and picnicking; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Muldoon area of Anchorage is home to some of the most densely
3 populated areas in the state, and future development plans call for increased high-density
4 housing in the area; and

5 **WHEREAS** adequate park and recreational facilities are important for maintaining
6 quality of life and property values in high-density areas; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on May 10, 2006, the Municipality of Anchorage adopted the
8 Municipality of Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Obesity and Health, which noted the importance
9 of parks and recreation facilities to public health and well-being and included the goal to site
10 public facilities, such as schools, parks, and public buildings, in locations readily accessible
11 by walking, biking, and public transit to the residents intended to be served; and

12 **WHEREAS**, if the western portion of the property is not included in the park, the
13 remaining acres will be inaccessible by public transit, greatly reducing accessibility by
14 requiring people to wind through neighborhood streets to obtain access; and

15 **WHEREAS** using the property for anything other than a park would be contrary to
16 the historic use of the property and would deprive the Northeast Anchorage and Muldoon
17 communities of a valuable recreational asset; and

18 **WHEREAS** the charter of the Municipality of Anchorage created neighborhood
19 community councils where local residents and business owners can express opinions on issues
20 affecting their communities; and

21 **WHEREAS** the property is located within the boundaries of the Northeast
22 Community Council; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Scenic Foothills Community Council is located slightly to the south
24 of the property; and

25 **WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2009, the Northeast Community Council passed a
26 unanimous resolution requesting the Municipality of Anchorage to designate the property as a
27 park and develop it into a park; and

28 **WHEREAS**, on January 5, 2012, the Scenic Foothills Community Council
29 unanimously voted to support turning the property into a park; and

30 **WHEREAS**, on July 9, 2010, the Governor signed into law ch. 43, SLA 2010, which
31 included an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of

1 developing a park on the property;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Municipality of
3 Anchorage to designate the entirety of former Tract B, Muldoon Estates Subdivision, as a
4 park and to work with the Northeast Community Council and the Scenic Foothills
5 Community Council to plan for the development of the park.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Sullivan, Mayor,
7 Municipality of Anchorage; the Honorable Debbie Ossiander, Chair, Anchorage Assembly;
8 the Honorable Paul Honeman, Assembly Member, East Anchorage; the Honorable Adam
9 Trombley, Assembly Member, East Anchorage; the Honorable Kevin Smestad, President,
10 Northeast Community Council; the Honorable Mark Hill, President, Scenic Foothills
11 Community Council; and John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation Department,
12 Municipality of Anchorage.