

Assembly Member

Felix Rivera

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To: Meg Zaletel
Executive Director
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
c/c Emergency Shelter Task Force

From: Felix Rivera
Committee Chair
Assembly's Committee on Housing and Homelessness

September 9, 2022

Director Zaletel,

Based on the recent communications from the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Municipality of Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson regarding the former Golden Lion Hotel located at 1000 E 36th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508, I formally request that the Emergency Shelter Task Force add usage of the former Golden Lion on the list for potential use as temporary emergency shelter.

The building meets all the main criteria set out by the task force, including 1) availability to be used 24/7, 2) availability of showers, and 3) availability to have meals. In addition, the building is owned by the Municipality of Anchorage and is currently vacant.

Similar to the Sprung structure, such a valuable asset should be on the table for consideration and review by the task force.

The neighborhoods of Fairview and Spenard have made it abundantly clear that they oppose usage of the Fairview and Spenard Recreation Centers for emergency shelter for a variety of valid arguments. As I know matters of equity and fairness are important to the Anchorage Assembly, the Assembly's Committee on Housing and Homelessness, and the Emergency Shelter Task Force, I hope we can align our efforts to provide adequate emergency sheltering for the approximately 350 unsheltered individuals in our community without using these important community resources.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Emergency Shelter Task Force for all of your hard work and exemplary efforts. The work you are doing is historic and I look forward to our collective success as a community.

Thank you,

