

Submitted by: Assembly Member Quinn-Davidson
Assembly Member Perez-Verdia
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: _____ (always blank)

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2020-_____

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A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY DESIGNATING LANGUAGE FOR AN OFFICIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE DENA'INA ATHABASCANS.

WHEREAS, the land within the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage is home to the K'enaht'ana, the Indigenous people of Nuti (Knik Arm), who today are members of the Eklutna (Eydlughet) and Knik (K'enakatnu) tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Eydlughet and K'enakatnu tribes and their descendants have lived and subsisted on the lands and waters between the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains for thousands of years, long before Anchorage was "founded" and developed by visitors from elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, these lands and waters have been cared for by the Dena'ina for many years through traditions passed from generation to generation, and today are where residents of Anchorage and visitors to the area now come to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous name for this area is "K'enahtana Elnena," meaning Knik Arm People's Country, and it is where the Native Village of Eklutna and Indigenous people from all across Alaska continue to live and flourish today; and

WHEREAS, almost 20% of Alaska's population identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native, by far the highest of any state; and

WHEREAS, a land acknowledgment is a formal statement recognizing respect for the Indigenous people of a particular place; now, therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES that after the date of approval of this resolution, unless altered by subsequent Assembly action, the following is the official land acknowledgement statement of the Anchorage Assembly required to be read at Assembly meetings pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.035A.3., and encouraged to be read as appropriate at other Assembly meetings and functions:

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement recognizing the Indigenous people of a place. It is a public gesture of appreciation for the past and present Indigenous stewardship of the lands that we now occupy. It is an actionable statement that marks our collective movement towards decolonization and equity.

The Anchorage Assembly would like to acknowledge that we gather today on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabascans. For thousands of years the Dena'ina have been and continue to be the stewards of this land. It is with gratefulness and respect that we recognize the contributions, innovations, and contemporary perspectives of the upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina.

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PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk