

Submitted by: Assembly Chair Gray-Jackson,
Assembly Vice-Chair Traini, Assembly Members Croft,
Demboiski, Dunbar, Evans, Flynn, Petersen, Starr, Steele,
and Weddleton, and Mayor Berkowitz
Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office
For reading: December 20, 2016

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2016-XXX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE
PLAYGROUNDS IN ANCHORAGE.**

WHEREAS, outdoor play is essential to a child's intellectual, physical, and social development, and inclusive playgrounds extend the benefits of outdoor play to children and families of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, with significant support from Rasmuson Foundation, the Anchorage Park Foundation, along with the Parks and Recreation Department, began the inclusive playground initiative after learning from concerned parents of children who experience disabilities that Anchorage – and all of Alaska – was without fully accessible playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Anchorage Downtown Rotary, *Parks for All*, and other funders collaborated to build the first "Boundless" inclusive playground at Cuddy Family Midtown Park, and also in 2013, the *Take Back our Park* committee championed improvements to Campbell Creek Park that included developing an inclusive playground; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Rasmuson Foundation awarded a generous, five-year, \$450,000 grant to the Anchorage Park Foundation's inclusive play initiative, becoming a lead funder in the effort; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Anchorage Park Foundation and Anchorage Parks and Recreation's public/private partnership rebuilt the playground at Balto Seppala Park with an accessible, artificial turf play surfacing; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, with support from the Alaska State Legislature, Rasmuson Foundation, the Reitman Family Charitable Fund, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and Anchorage Parks and Recreation's public/private partnership constructed new inclusive playgrounds at Suzan Nightingale McKay Park, Dave Rose Park, and David Green Park and in 2016 built inclusive playgrounds at Barbara Street Park, Dulcida Park, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, and Kincaid Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Anchorage Park Foundation and inclusive play movement supporters hosted the inaugural Teddy Bear Picnic to celebrate Anchorage's accomplishments, increase community awareness of the movement, and build overall community; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, with Inclusive Playground bond funds approved by Anchorage voters, inclusive playgrounds will be built in Muldoon Town Square Park, South Anchorage Sports Park, and Jewel Lake Park, bringing the number of inclusive playgrounds in Anchorage to 13; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Anchorage Assembly honors Rasmuson Foundation's support of the public-private partnership for parks and trails and recognizes the significant progress made by the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department's inclusive playground initiative in increasing opportunities for outdoor play to children and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Anchorage Assembly champions inclusive playgrounds in Anchorage and envisions a future where children and families of all abilities can enjoy the benefits of outdoor play in all 85 public park playgrounds.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk