



Re: Update on South Anchorage Food Distribution Facility

10 messages

Prince Nwankudu <prince@revivealaska.org>

Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 12:39 PM

To: "LaFrance, Suzanne" <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov>

Cc: "Ross, Clare E." <clare.ross@anchorageak.gov>, "Hartman, Allie M." <Allie.Hartman@anchorageak.gov>, "Rowton, Shelley A." <shelley.a.rowton@anchorageak.gov>, Revive Alaska Community Services <info@revivealaska.org>

Hello Susan,

Below are your questions with answers.

1. My understanding is that the original barn structure has been torn down and removed and a temporary food distribution facility is in operation at this location. It's also my understanding from public testimony by Revive Alaska representatives that this was not funded with ARPA money from the Municipality but was paid for through private fundraising. Is that correct?

The temporary food distribution facility you referenced above is the emergency make-shift garage-turned food pantry that we were already renovating and operating from before we applied for the 1st round of ARPA funds. It is this makeshift food pantry that our representatives referred to in her testimony that was not funded by ARPA money. We completed the renovation of the makeshift food pantry before we got the ARPA funds.

2. Also, can you tell me how much ARPA money Revive Alaska has received from the Municipality to date and on what projects these funds have been expended?

a. The 1st round of ARPA funds we received from the Municipality is \$750,000.00 (seven hundred and fifty thousand) for the food pantry connected to work on the original barn structure which was damaged by the roof caving in under the weight of snow.

b. The ARPA fund was applied to the teardown and removal of the old barn, topographical survey, geotechnical engineering services, advance payment for the modular lumber structure, design/architectural services, civil engineering services, and project management for the construction of the Life Center at O'Malley.

c. We have also applied some of the ARPA funds in our recently acquired temporary location for the food pantry. A temporary food pantry has been necessary from the outset because we could only operate at a 10-20% capacity out of the emergency makeshift pantry. In addition, once we break ground for the Life Center building, coupled with the DOT O'Malley Road construction, we would not be able to serve the public out of that location until the end of construction.

We used the emergency makeshift food pantry for a longer time than we planned because we could not find an adequate temporary location for the food pantry in South Anchorage. This situation drastically affected our output and forced volunteers and staff to work and serve the community under poor conditions. However, about four months ago we found a midtown location that has food pantry space, a commercial kitchen, and office spaces for

our operations. Our plan is to continue our expanded operations serving both mid-town and South Anchorage from this location while building the Life Center and through the duration of the O'Malley Road DOT construction.

The emergency makeshift food pantry at O'Malley will remain open for skeletal services as much as possible through this construction period. Once the Life Center is finished towards the end of next year, the South Anchorage Food Pantry will be reopened as part of the Life Center at the O'Malley Road location. Then this current temporary location will become the Midtown Food Pantry serving midtown Anchorage and surrounding areas.

3. Lastly, will Revive Alaska be continuing with the plan to build a life center at the O'Malley location with a food pantry and soup kitchen as part of the center? Yes, the Life Center Project is still ongoing with a target completion date of November 2023.

Thanks.

Prince.

On Tue, Jun 28, 2022 at 3:12 PM LaFrance, Suzanne <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov> wrote:

Hi, Pastor Prince,

Thank you for your efforts to address food insecurity in our community. Would you be able to clarify the status of the Revive Alaska food distribution facility on O'Malley? My understanding is that the original barn structure has been torn down and removed and a temporary food distribution facility is in operation at this location. It's also my understanding from public testimony by Revive Alaska representatives that this was not funded with ARPA money from the Municipality but was paid for through private fundraising. Is that correct?

Also, can you tell me how much ARPA money Revive Alaska has received from the Municipality to date and on what projects these funds have been expended?

Lastly, will Revive Alaska be continuing with the plan to build a life center at the O'Malley location with a food pantry and soup kitchen as part of the center?

(Including the legislative services team as they are preparing for the next ARPA worksession and they may find it helpful to share this information with the other members.)

Thanks,

Suzanne

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Suzanne LaFrance

Chair, Anchorage Assembly