



# Alaska Native Health Board

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## RESOLUTION 09-02

### EXPRESSING OUTRAGE OVER THE LACK OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ALASKA NATIVE PERSONS IN ANCHORAGE

WHEREAS, since 1968, ANHB has advocated for Alaska Native health, and represents 24 Alaska tribal health organizations from throughout Alaska which collectively employ over 7,000 Alaskans and provide health services to approximately 130,000 Alaska Native persons;

WHEREAS, Eddie Barr, an Alaska Native person, was savagely beaten and denigrated on the streets of Anchorage by a man and woman who screamed racial slurs at him while they committed the hate crime, and who then posted a video of their savagery on YouTube;

WHEREAS, in May through August of 2009, at least 11 homeless persons died in Anchorage, including a number of Alaska Native persons, one of whom was brutally beaten to death, and another of whom was hit by a vehicle while crossing the street;

WHEREAS, for many years, Alaska Native persons in Anchorage have been the victims of violent crimes, including sexual assaults, at many times the rate of the general population;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Health Board deeply regrets this loss of life and such hateful, humiliating treatment of our people, and expresses heartfelt sympathies to the victims of these crimes and to the families and loved ones of the deceased;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Health Board hereby finds that these violent crimes and deaths constitute a grave threat to the health and welfare of Alaska Native persons and to the Alaska Native community as a whole, and compelling evidence of a widespread lack of respect, equality and dignity afforded Alaska Native persons in Anchorage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Health Board requests the Mayor of Anchorage, the Anchorage Police Department and other Municipal and State agencies thoroughly investigate each and every violent crime and death suffered by an Alaska Native person; pursue justice in each and every case to the fullest extent of the law; develop methods and means to protect Alaska Native persons from such violent crimes and deaths in the future; and form a special task force in cooperation with the Alaska Native Health Board and other Alaska Native advocacy organizations to develop solutions and take action to prevent such violent crimes and deaths in the future.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009, in a unanimous vote.

Andrew Jimmie, Chairman

Emily Hughes, Secretary