INFORMATION RELEASE
April 24, 2017

Juneau Assembly set to give Housing First an additional $1.2 million
Ordinance up for public comment at regular Assembly meeting tonight

The Juneau Assembly is scheduled to take action tonight on a $1.2 million grant to the Juneau Housing First Project. This funding would be in addition to $1.5 million the Assembly gave to the project in 2015. The Housing First facility, set to open in July, will put a roof over 32 of Juneau's most vulnerable residents who experience barriers to housing stability.

Community members can comment tonight during a public hearing on an ordinance to appropriate $700,000 from Sales Tax fund balance to the Housing First facility. The amount would be added to $500,000 already set aside last June, totaling $1.2 million. The City Manager recommends the ordinance be adopted.

The grant stems from $1.8 million in bridge financing the Assembly approved in January 2016 for Housing First construction. The bridge funding had the potential to become a permanent increase in funding if other planned fundraising sources didn't work out.

Construction of Housing First, including a medical clinic, is nearly done and is scheduled to open in July. The total estimated cost for design, construction, and administration is projected to be $7.6 million. To date, the Juneau Housing First Collaborative has collected $6.4 million, leaving a funding shortfall of $1.2 million. At this point, JHFC has no additional sources of funding and requested $1.2 million of bridge financing be converted to a grant.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its April 5 meeting and forwarded it to the Assembly for approval. The ordinance to appropriate $700,000 to Housing First is up for public hearing at tonight's regular meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. in Assembly Chambers.

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For more information, contact City Manager Rorie Watt at 586-5240 or rorie.watt@juneau.org.