Anchorage Answers

As of July 7, the Anchorage self-response rate 2020 Census, measured as a response to the mailers sent out by the Census Bureau, is 61.1%. You can take the 2020 Census online, over the phone or by paper. Learn more at 2020census.gov.

June Highlights

Several Assembly members signed on to a resolution put forward by Assembly Members Meg Zaletel, Christopher Constant, Felix Rivera, and Mayor Berkowitz, AR 2020-197, which recognized the “Icantbreathe” rally held on May 30. This rally called for an end to system racial injustice. The resolution put forward a series of commitments the Assembly and Mayor will engage in over the coming weeks and months.

Emergency Extension

The administration put forward AR 2020-198, which extended the Declaration of Civil Emergency to July 31. If the administration comes forward with another extension request, it must provide a written and public report stating its rationale.
Childcare Funding

Several Assembly members, including Meg Zaletel, Austin Quinn-Davidson, and Felix Rivera, worked with the administration to develop a follow-up proposal to the two pilot programs approved by the Assembly in May. AR 2020-221 set aside $20M of the CARES Act funding approved by the state legislature in the following ways: $5M in small business / non-profits grants, $2M in rental and mortgage assistance, $10M in childcare assistance for businesses, and $3M in a public lands jobs program.

Upcoming Items

Title 21 Updates

Assembly Members John Weddleton, Meg Zaletel and Mayor Berkowitz put forward an ordinance which amends Title 21, Land Use, to allow homeless and transient shelters in the B3 (City Center) zoning district. After much deliberation on this ordinance, AO 2020-58, the sponsors intend to postpone adoption and bring forward an alternative proposal. For now, public hearing and vote is planned for July 14.

Protecting Privacy

Assembly Members Forrest Dunbar, Meg Zaletel and John Weddleton put forward AO 2020-50, which allowed for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to remove personally identifiable information from the searchable online database of real property.

Increasing Shelter Access

Assembly Members Meg Zaletel, Felix Rivera, and Christopher Constant and Mayor Berkowitz introduced AO 2020-66, which authorizes the acquisition of four different properties in relation to the Municipality’s work on homelessness and substance misuse treatment. The four properties include:
- Bean’s Café,
- Best Western Golden Lion,
- Alaska Club in Midtown, and
- America’s Bast Value.
The intent for these properties is to offer day engagement, a treatment center, day engagement and night shelter, and transitional housing.

Policy Transparency

Assembly Members Forrest Dunbar, Meg Zaletel, and Mayor Berkowitz have put forward an ordinance to require transparency of Anchorage Police Department policies and procedures, AO 2020-75. This ordinance will have a public hearing and vote on July 28.
CARES Act Funds

After hosting a series of roundtables in May, the Assembly used June to deliberate and organize our thinking around usage of CARES Act funds. On Friday, July 17, the Assembly will hold an all-day meeting to push this process forward and workshop various ideas, proposals, and frameworks. Members of the public are invited to listen in telephonically or watch a livestream of the meeting on Facebook.

Mask Mandate

On Friday, June 26, Mayor Berkowitz issue Emergency Order 13, which mandates the use of cloth face coverings or masks in the Municipality of Anchorage when in a public space such as a grocery store, pharmacy, restaurant or bar, retail store, and other common indoor areas. You can read more information about this emergency order on the Municipality’s COVID-19 response website.

COVID-19

For information on the current Municipality’s COVID-19 response, as well as the “Maintenance” phase, please visit this website.

If you are struggling with job loss, income loss, or food insecurity, please call 2-1-1 to be connected to available resources that are right for you.