

MONTHLY UPDATE

Current news and updates from the Anchorage Assembly

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Can't get enough?

The Clerk's office is a great place to go for the most up to date info on many municipal issues. Follow the Anchorage Municipal Clerk on Facebook:

facebook.com/ANCMuniClerk/

Assembly Chambers Reopen

To comply with the Mayor's EO-14 v2, the Assembly Chambers are open to the public, with limitations. The Chambers are able to accommodate 60 members of the public while maintaining strict physical distancing and mask requirements. Meetings will continue to be live streamed at www.muni.org/watchnow, as well as on GCI Channel 9. Members of the public are still encouraged to testify over the phone or via email:

- To testify over the phone, email Testimony@anchorageak.gov by 2:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. If you signed up before the 2pm deadline you are on the call list, and we will call you when the Assembly reaches your agenda item. In your email, please include:
 - Your Name
 - Phone Number
 - Agenda Item Number/Title for which you wish to provide testimony
 - In the Subject Line: Phone Testimony
- If you don't feel comfortable testifying over the phone, you can email your comments to Testimony@anchorageak.gov by 2pm on the day of the meeting. Please include the agenda item number for the item you're writing about in the subject line of the email. Emails received by 2pm will be officially added to the record, although emails are welcome after this deadline.

Whether you sign up to speak, or email your comments, they will be included in the record. More information [can be found here](#).

Legislative Update

Shelter Access

After hearing from hundreds of our neighbors, the Assembly voted to approve AO 2020-66, an ordinance authorizing the purchase of four properties to be used to provide much-needed housing, treatment and support services to people experiencing homelessness as well as much-needed substance misuse treatment for all residents in our community. The Municipality has received further guidance from the U.S. Treasury, providing two possible paths forward to allow for the purchase of these properties. The administration continues to weigh their options. In the meantime, Municipal staff are engaging in due diligence on the properties in preparation for the purchase as well as preparing for the next phase in this process, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to identify potential providers who would work in these buildings.

Conversion Therapy Ban

On August 26th, the Assembly passed AO 2020-65 to ban the practice of conversion therapy by licensed providers in the Municipality of Anchorage. This ordinance, sponsored by Assembly Members Felix Rivera, Austin Quinn-Davidson, and Christopher Constant, does not apply to religious practitioners. The full text of the ordinance and more information can [be found here](#).

Office of Equity & Justice

The Assembly approved AO 2020-79, which will establish an Office of Equity and Justice. This office will be responsible for developing, supporting, and implementing the equity within the Municipality. The Chief Equity Officer shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the assembly.

Worker Retention

On August 27, the Assembly held a public hearing on AO 2020-84, which seeks to provide protections for workers in the hotel industry by requiring that hotels with 100 rooms or more have right of recall and worker retention provisions in place. These provisions are meant to provide a smooth transition for employees as hotels change hands between owners due to the economic instability caused by COVID-19. center, day engagement and night shelter, and transitional housing.

Police Use of Force

This week the Assembly was set to consider AO 2020-80, sponsored by Assembly Member Meg Zaletel, to codify limitations on the use of force policies by the Anchorage Police Department. This ordinance would prohibit law enforcement officers from firing warning shots or shooting in contexts which pose a high risk to members of the public. It would ban chokeholds and vascular holds and prevent the use of lethal force when someone is handcuffed. Although it was for a public hearing on August 25, the sponsor's asked to continue the public hearing to the meeting of September 29. The Assembly held a public hearing on this ordinance and postponed the item indefinitely, "killing" the ordinance. The sponsor intends to continue this discussion through another vehicle.

COVID-19

CARES Act Funding

On Wednesday, August 12, the Assembly approved a number of CARES Act appropriations, on top of the already-approved \$6M for small business relief, \$1M for rental and mortgage assistance, \$10M for child care relief, and \$3M for a public land jobs program.

Last week's package included a number of additional items, such as:

- \$14.1M for tourism and hospitality businesses
- \$20M for rental and mortgage assistance
- \$5M for grants to be issued to parents to pay for child care
- \$2M for Visit Anchorage to market tourism and aid our tourism recovery post-COVID
- \$3M for nonprofit stimulus

And much more. To learn more, check out our recently developed [CARES Act funding website here](#).

Emergency Declaration

At the regular Assembly meeting on July 28th, the Assembly voted 9-2 to extend the emergency declaration. Continuing the emergency declaration allows for flexibility in work-from-home arrangements, quick procurement of emergency supplies, and a streamlined response process. The emergency declaration is currently set to expire October 16th.

School Start

Teachers have returned to work and many of you are still trying to adjust to remote learning. Currently, Anchorage is still operating at High Risk according to the ASD [School Start Plan](#). All instruction will begin online, and Anchorage School District is working to help coordinate internet access, distribute computers, and provide technical support to families who need it. Visit www.asdk12.org/COVID-19 to learn more.

EO-14v.2

On Monday, August 31, EO-14 v2 went into affect. This new emergency order laid out the following limitations:

- All indoor events and gatherings are limited to 30 people in a single enclosed indoor space
- All outdoor gatherings involving consumption of food or drink must be limited to 50 people or fewer
- Outdoor gatherings that do not involve food or drink are limited to 100 people
- Of note, the gathering limitation does not apply to gathering for the purpose of worship or political expression where masks are worn and where food and drink are not being consumed. These gatherings are instead subject to a 50% indoor capacity limitation.
- All restaurants, bars, breweries, and nightclubs and similar entities may provide sit-down service while operating at no greater than 50% of maximum building occupancy
- All other indoor entertainment and recreation facilities, including gyms, bingo halls, and theaters shall be limited to 50% of building occupancy.

The full text of the emergency order: [can be found here](#).

News You Can Use

Anchored Home

Over the course of the testimony on issues related to homelessness it became clear that residents have a lot of questions about homelessness in Anchorage. The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness has compiled a lot of data, including demographic data about the population experiencing homelessness. The Coalition recently released a gap analysis showing the number of people in need of shelter and the number of beds available in Anchorage. You can read the [Anchored Home plan here](#) and [more about the Gap Analysis here](#).

APDEA Contract

The Assembly will hold a special meeting on Friday, September 18 to give guidance to the administration on upcoming Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations between the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA). Per Municipal code, this guidance will be given in executive session.

Joint Meeting: Assembly/School Board

On Friday, September 11, the Assembly will be hosting the next quarterly joint meeting between the Anchorage School Board and the Anchorage Assembly. The primary focus of the meeting will be a review of the Anchorage School District's COVID-19 response for the 2020-2021 school year, including an update on school start.

Follow the Assembly

Many of you have expressed frustration over too little notice on major legislative issues. We will continue to work on updates like these to flag major events, but the Assembly website is a great resource as well.

On our website you can find a calendar of upcoming events and committee meetings. Many of the significant items that come before the Assembly are worked on in committees, so keep an eye on their agendas.

You can also find archives of old meetings, and find the streaming links and agendas for our regular meetings, as well as major worksessions. Check www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly periodically to stay up to date.