

Assembly Update

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Penal Code Updates

In May, the Department of Law introduced an ordinance to update three sections of Title 8, the penal code:

- abuse of a child or vulnerable adult,
- harassment, and
- criminal mischief

These changes were suggested by the department to allow the Municipal Prosecutor's Office to be able to prosecute more effectively and close perceived loopholes in the law. The Assembly approved this ordinance, AO 2021-50, after clarifying some of the community concerns raised to us, at our June 22 meeting.

Mayor's Appointments

The new Bronson administration put forward its first executive appointees for Assembly approval on July 13 through AM 459-2021. The Assembly unanimously confirmed the following executive positions: Amy Demboski as Municipal Manager, Doug Schrage as Fire Chief, Travis Frisk as Chief Fiscal Officer, Patrick Bergt Municipal Attorney, and Niki Tshibaka as Human Resources Director.

Private Ambulance Regs.

The prior administration has put forward AO 2021-63, which was approved by the Assembly on July 27, an ordinance to update licensing, fees, quality assurance, and compliance oversight for private ambulance services. According to the administration, private ambulance providers requested this new language to allow for more independence in scheduling and coordination of patient movement.

Affordable Home Construction

AO 2021-71, brought forward by Assembly Members Weddleton and Dunbar, is intended to decrease the cost of building a new home by allowing roll curbs on residential minor streets. Currently, vertical curbs are required. This ordinance was referred to the planning and zoning commission and will come back before the Assembly after their review.

Featured Content

Port of Alaska Modernization

Last year, the Assembly approved the creation of the Port of Alaska Modernization Program (PAMP) Design Advisory Board to help move our work forward on this critical piece of infrastructure for our state. On June 22, the Assembly approved the first work product from that board in AO 2021-56, which set forth an initial modified design concept for Phase 2 of the PAMP.

Retirement Announcements

With a change in administration, several long-time Municipal employees decided to retire. At the June 22 meeting, the Assembly said goodbye to Ron Hadden, former Purchasing Director, Justin Doll, former Police Chief, Jodie Hettrick, former Fire Chief, and Robin Ward, former Real Estate Director and Chief Housing Officer. These four new retirees served their neighbors in the Municipality of Anchorage for decades.

Street Renaming

In response to concerns about the process of a 2019 street renaming project, Assembly Members Crystal Kennedy and Jamie Allard have brought forward AO 2021-69. This ordinance seeks to change the notice requirements in Title 21 to require mailing notice to the local Community Council of any proposed street name change in their council area. We did not get to this item before the end of our meeting, so it will be on the August 10 agenda for a public hearing and possible vote.



Congratulations, Chief!

The body approved the historic nomination of now Chief Ken McCoy for the position of Police Chief through AM 493-2021.

COVID Updates

Some may have noticed major changes to the Municipal website, www.muni.org. One recent change was the removal of COVID-19 information from the home page. To assist those who have had difficulty finding this information, please use this link: <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>

The Health Policy Committee of the Assembly will be receiving a COVID-19 update on Wednesday, August 4th to include information about ASD's plans for fall.
