

Assembly Update

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The Assembly approved all Mayoral executive appointments (AMs 492, 494, 495, 496, 497, and 508-2021) brought before us on August 10th. These appointments included Karl Raszkievicz as Management and Budget Director, Adam Trombley as Director of office of Economic and Community Development, Marcus Dahl as Information Technology Director, Saxton Shearer as director of Maintenance and Operations, Lance Wilber as Director of Public Works, and Christina Hendrickson as Director of Real Estate. Due to his resignation, the Assembly did not consider the appointment of former Acting Anchorage Health Department Director, David Morgan.

Honoring Mayor Fink

The Assembly approved AR 2021-255, a resolution to honor former Mayor Tom Fink for his service to the Municipality of Anchorage. Tom Fink served as Mayor from 1988 to 1994 and was well known for using the power of the veto. By the end of his tenure, Mayor Fink had used the veto approximately 160 times.

Street Naming Changes

In response to concerns about the process of a 2019 street renaming project, Assembly Members Crystal Kennedy and Jamie Allard brought forward AO 2021-69. This ordinance, approved by the Assembly, changed the notice requirements in Title 21 to require that notice of any proposed street name change be mailed to the local Community Council.

Liquor License Postponed

At the request of the Midtown Community Council, the Assembly postponed action on an Alcohol Special Land Use Permit for Northern Lights Liquor, AR 2021-248. The Council raised a variety of public health and safety concerns regarding this package store liquor license. This resolution was referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee meeting of September 1 and will be back before the body for consideration on September 14.

Certificate of Ownership System Removed

Continuing the work started with AO 2020-90, Assembly Member Felix Rivera and Vice Chair Christopher Constant brought forward AO 2021-72 to assist the taxicab industry. This ordinance, amended and approved by the Assembly, removed the certificate of ownership (CoO) system from Municipal code. The CoO, according to the sponsors, limited the transferability of legacy permits and destroyed their economic value.

Featured Content

Confirmations Completed

The Assembly completed the final round of Mayor Bronson's executive appointments, AMs 505, 506, and 509-2021. These appointments included Rachelle Ager for Purchasing Director, Sami Graham for Librarian, and Mike Robbins for Executive Director of the Anchorage Community Development Authority. Sami Graham was not confirmed, but was promoted to Chief of Staff to the Mayor. We congratulate Ms. Graham on her position and look forward to working with her. The Mayor has submitted Judy Norton- Eledge for consideration as the Librarian.

Houseless Advisory Board

Assembly Member Felix Rivera brought forward an ordinance to create a Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board, AO 2021-76 this month. According to the sponsor, this item would systematize inclusion of those with lived experience of houselessness into the work of the Municipality of housing and homelessness. Unfortunately, this item was vetoed by Mayor Bronson earlier this month. The Board may still be established via veto override by the Assembly.

Housing Assistance Funding

The Municipality of Anchorage will be receiving another \$26.9M of federal funds for rental and utility assistance, AR 2021-261. This resolution will allow us to accept the funds. Federal guidelines dictate that the funds must be used for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utility and home energy arrears, and other expenses related to housing incurred directly or indirectly due to the pandemic.

Vision Document Updates

In 2019, the Assembly approved AR 2019-436, a resolution establishing and adopting the Assembly's Vision and Goals for 2019 to 2021. The priority areas in this approved document included: Homelessness, Communications, Public Safety, Economic Development, and Quality of Life. As the Assembly prepares to update this document, Vice Chair Christopher Constant and Assembly Members Felix Rivera and Kameron Perez-Verdia have brought forward AR 2021-262 for the body to consider. This resolution does two things: 1) adds Equity as a priority area for the Assembly's Vision and Goals for 2022 to 2024 and 2) reconfirms the Assembly's commitment to the goals of Welcoming Anchorage and Welcoming America. This resolution passed on August 24 (no individual public hearing).

Winter Housing Plan

The Administration and Vice Chair Christopher Constant and Assembly members John Weddleton and Meg Zaletel are engaged in a facilitated dialogue to discuss an interim plan for mass care for winter 2021/2022 as well as evaluate long term plans to address the shortage of shelter within the community.

The facilitated process was discussed at the Assembly's Committee on Housing and Homelessness on August 18 and further updates will be provided to the public and full Assembly through work sessions. The next work session update is scheduled for September 1.

COVID Updates

Due to increase demand, the administration has put forward an ordinance to finance additional testing and vaccination services in the Municipality, AO 2021-75, in the amount of approximately \$8M. It is expected that these funds will be fully reimbursed by State and Federal assistance. You can learn more about testing opportunities at: <https://anchoragecovidtest.org/>.

You can learn more about vaccine opportunities at: <https://anchoragecovidvaccine.org/>.