

[NSCC Website Link](#), [NSCC Facebook Link](#)
Email contact: nscboard@googlegroups.com

North Star Community Council General Membership Meeting Agenda

Wednesday July 9th, 2025 from 7pm - 8:30pm

The official start to the meeting will be preceded by 30 minutes of open social time for community connection. The North Star Community Council meets the second Wednesday of most months.

The North Star Community Council meets in hybrid or zoom only formats on alternating months.
Odd Months: Hybrid in person at the Federation of Community Councils Office located at 1057 W Fireweed Lane or online via zoom. Snacks will be provided.

Even Months: Zoom Only

To attend this meeting virtually via Zoom, please follow the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87811953219?pwd=L2loeElmbkRXNjBzTittdzNKbWdMdz09>

Meeting ID: 878 1195 3219, Passcode: 635103

Call to Order

- [Please click this link to Sign in](#)
 - On all meetings going forward, attendees on Zoom will be asked to say hello when logging in and camera permissions will be disabled until most attendees are in the meeting. Hosts now have the ability to quickly restrict users to prevent “Zoom Bombing” in future meetings, if that is an issue.
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
 - [May 2025](#)

Reports (if available)

- Legislative Update
 - Zack Fields
 - Senator Löki Gale Tobin
- Assembly Update
 - Daniel Volland
 - Christopher Constant
- ASD Update
- Dave Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services

New Business:

1. NSCC Outreach

- a. Discussion of how to grow active membership

2. Education on AO 2025-74, Criminalization of Camping

- a. The board is inviting members of the assembly and administration to speak on this AO and its various alternative versions (called “S Versions”).
- b. Attached to the agenda are copies of the original ordinance, and two S versions introduced by the Mayor’s administration and Chris Constant.
- c. Assembly Worksession on the Mayor’s version of the ordinance
 - i. July 9th, 1pm to 2pm, City Hall Room #155
 - ii. Streaming on YouTube: [youtube.com/@moameetings](https://www.youtube.com/@moameetings)
 - iii. Listen in on the phone: (907) 273-5190, Participant Code – 721227#
- d. Public Comment on Ordinance:
 - i. In person special assembly meeting: July 11th, 1-4pm at Loussac Library
 - ii. Written:
 - 1. <https://moaonlineforms.formstack.com/forms/assemblyphonetestimony>
 - 2. or via email: assembly@anchorageak.gov
 - iii. Guide to testimony: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/participate.aspx>

Old Business

- 1. North Star Community Council Logo
- 2. Resolution in Support of Municipality of Anchorage’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project HSP0034, titled “A Street Road Diet,”
 - a.  NSCC Resolution 2025 - 05

Updates:

- Spenard Hill Mural Project Update, Keelan Kenny
 - No news!

NSCC Committee Updates

Current Committees:

- 1. Fireweed Lane Redevelopment
 - 2. Noise in Northstar
 - 3. Constitution and Parliamentary Affairs
-

Submitted by: Assembly Member McCormick
Assembly Member Myers
Assembly Member Goecker
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: June 10, 2025

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-74

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.05 AND SECTIONS 8.45.015 AND 15.20.020 TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PREMISES BY PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS CONSISTENT WITH CITY OF GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON AND OTHER LAW.

WHEREAS, Anchorage continues to experience extensive unauthorized encampments that endanger public health, safety, and the quiet enjoyment of public places; and

WHEREAS, on June 28 2024 the United States Supreme Court, in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, held that local governments may criminalize public camping regardless of available shelter capacity without violating the Eighth Amendment so long as the prohibition targets conduct rather than "status"; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2024, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly postponed indefinitely proposed AO 2024-39, leaving Title 15's abatement process (AMC15.20.020) as the Municipality's primary tool despite heavy litigation burdens, now heightened by the Alaska Supreme Court's decision in *Smith v. Municipality of Anchorage*, Op. No. 7767 (May 9, 2025); and

WHEREAS, the Assembly now finds it necessary and proper to adopt a clear, constitutionally sound criminal-code alternative that can be enforced expeditiously while protecting due-process rights and personal property; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.05.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.05.015 Definitions.

A. *Definitions.* Except as otherwise provided in this title or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions of the words and phrases in AS 11.81.900, or the definitions applicable to the Alaska Statutes provisions corresponding to the offense described in sections of this title, shall be the definitions of those same words and phrases used in this title. The definitions of words and terms below shall apply for purposes of this title unless otherwise provided:

1. *Animal control officer* means public employee charged by law

with the duty to enforce the provisions of Title 17 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.

2. *Camping* means the use of space for the purpose of sleeping or establishing temporary living quarters, including, but not limited to, erection of a tent or other shelter.

3. *Child* refers to any person under 16 years of age.

4. *Domestic violence and crime involving domestic violence* mean one or more of the following offenses or an offense under a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having elements similar to these offenses, or an attempt to commit the offense, by a household member against another household member:

- a. A crime against the person under AMC 8.10;
- b. Criminal trespass under AMC 8.45;
- c. Criminally negligent burning under AMC 8.20.030;
- d. Criminal mischief under AMC 8.20.010;
- e. Violating a protective order under AMC 8.30.105;
- f. Harassment under AMC 8.10.110.

For purposes of this section, household member has the definition assigned to that term by AS 18.66.990(5).

5. *Family member* means a:

- a. Spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of the victim, whether related by blood, marriage or adoption;
- b. Person who lives, or has previously lived, in a spousal relationship with the victim;
- c. Person who lives in the same household as the victim; or
- d. Person who is a former spouse of the victim or is or has been in a dating, courtship or engagement relationship with the victim.

6. *First Responder* means firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, member of the mobile crisis team or crisis intervention team, "peace officer" as defined by AS 11.81.900, or other public employee, who, in the course of their professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous

material, or other similar emergencies.

7. *Lawful order* means an order which is given where the defendant's conduct or speech substantially impedes an officer in the performance of any duties in effecting an arrest, in investigating a crime, or in ensuring the public safety.
8. *Minor* refers to any person under 18 years of age.
9. *Minor offense* means a noncriminal offense punishable only by a fine, but not by imprisonment or other penalty; conviction of a minor offense does not give rise to any disability or legal disadvantage based on conviction of a crime; a person charged with a minor offense is not entitled to a trial by jury or to have a public defender or other counsel appointed at public expense to represent the person.
10. *Public property or premises* means a property owned by the Municipality or state to which the public or a substantial group of persons has access and includes, but is not limited to, streets, highways, sidewalks, alleys, transportation facilities, parking areas, convention centers, sports arenas, schools, plazas, parks, and playgrounds.
11. *Public transit worker* means an employee of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applicant, recipient, subrecipient, or contractor who is involved in any aspect of an agency's public transit operation funded by the FTA, including those employees who, in the course of their professional duties, operates a vehicle under the People Mover, AnchorRIDES, RideShare, or any other program operating under the authority of chapter 11.70.

(AO No. 2014-42, § 1, 6-21-14; AO No. 2024-20(S-1), § 1, 4-9-24)

Section 2. Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 8.45 is hereby amended to enact the following new section of code (*requiring no legislative formatting*):

8.45.015 Prohibited camping.

- A. A person commits the offense of prohibited camping if the person knowingly camps on public premises or property without permission or authority to do so.
- B. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

Section 3. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.05.025 is hereby amended to add as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

8.05.025 Minor offense fine schedule; misdemeanor penalty reference table; and state surcharge.

*** **

B. Misdemeanor offenses reference table.

Section	Description	Penalty	Penalty Section
*** **			
Chapter 8.45 TRESPASS			
8.45.010(A)(1)—(4)	Trespass	Class A	8.05.020H.1.
8.45.015	Prohibited Camping	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
8.45.020(A)(1), (2)	Unauthorized entry	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
*** **			

*** **

(AO No. 2014-42, § 1, 6-21-14; AO No. 2015-7, § 2, 2-24-15; AO No. 2015-84, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-87, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-123(S), § 2, 11-10-15; EO No. 2016-1, § 1, 7-12-16; AO No. 2016-83(S), § 1, 7-26-16; AO No. 2016-114, § 1, 12-15-16; AO No. 2017-156, § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-34(S), § 4, 7-26-18; AO No. 2019-25, § 2, 3-5-19; AO No. 2023-100(S), § 1, 11-7-23)

Section 4. Anchorage Municipal Code section 15.20.020 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

15.20.020 Public nuisances prohibited; enumeration.

*** **

B. Public nuisances include, but are not limited to, the following acts and conditions:

*** **

15. *Prohibited campsites.* A prohibited campsite is an area where one or more persons are camping on public land in violation of chapter[SECTION] 8.45[.010], chapter 25.70, or any other provision of this Code. A prohibited campsite is subject to abatement by the municipality. The municipal official responsible for an abatement action may accomplish the abatement with the assistance of a contractor, association or organization. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following procedure may be used to abate a prohibited campsite:

*** **

(GAAB 16.68.110, 18.15.020, 18.15.030, 18.20.030, 18.20.060; CAC 8.10.020, 8.10.050; AO No. 113-76; AO No. 78-48; AO No. 79-63; AO No. 93-173(S), § 3, 2-24-94; AO No. 95-42, § 3, 3-23-95; AO No. 2001-145(S-1), § 12, 12-11-01; AO No. 2003-130, § 4, 10-7-03; AO No. 2009-83(S), § 2, 7-

7-09; AO No. 2010-43(S), § 1, 6-22-10; AO No. 2010-63, § 1, 9-14-10; AO No. 2011-52, § 1, 4-26-11; AO No. 2016-81(S), § 2, 8-25-16; AO No. 2017-119(S), § 2, 11-9-17; AO No. 2017-130(S), § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-53(S), § 1, 6-26-18; AO No. 2018-61, § 1, 7-31-18; AO No. 2018-118, § 2, 1-1-19; AO No. 2019-94(S), § 2, 8-6-19; AO No. 2024-55(S), § 1, 5-21-24)

Section 5. Implementation

- A. The Chief of Police shall review, update, or promulgate new Anchorage Police Policies, Regulations, and Procedures as necessary to implement this ordinance within thirty (30) days of passage.
- B. The Anchorage Health Department may publish a daily shelter bed availability dashboard accessible to officers and the public.
- C. The Municipal Attorney shall report, as part of its regular legal brief to the Assembly, on citations issued, arrests made, and property stored under this ordinance for at least one-year.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be effective thirty days (30) after passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 487-2025

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

From: Assembly Member McCormick

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.05 AND SECTIONS 8.45.015 AND 15.20.020 TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PREMISES BY PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS CONSISTENT WITH CITY OF GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON AND OTHER LAW.

In 2024, the Assembly considered two ordinances which proposed criminal penalties for prohibited camping within Municipality. The first, AO 2024-26, saw its criminal prohibitions against camping stripped out in a subsequent S version (AO 2024-26(S)) which ultimately passed. The second, AO 2024-39, was postponed indefinitely, despite significant public support indicating that residents of Anchorage would like this criminal penalty to return. As a result, the Municipality has been forced to rely exclusively on the abatement process in Title 15 as its only tool for addressing encampments scattered throughout our neighborhoods.

This proposed ordinance addresses this issue by creating a class B misdemeanor offense for persons knowingly “camping on public property or premises.” This follows the City of Tacoma’s “Use of Public Property” ordinance, which passed in October 2022 and provides for a misdemeanor offense for persons who violate the camping and personal property storage aspects of that ordinance.

I request your support for the ordinance.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel’s Office

Respectfully submitted: Keith McCormick, Assembly Member
District 6 – South Anchorage, Girdwood, &
Turnagain Arm

Scott Myers, Assembly Member
District 2 – Chugiak, Eagle River, Birchwood

Jared Goecker, Assembly Member
District 2 – Chugiak, Eagle River, Birchwood

Submitted by: Mayor LaFrance, Assembly
Members Johnson, Silvers, and
Volland
Prepared by: Municipal Attorney
For reading: (always blank)

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-74(S-)

(NOTE: this substitute version is presented without legislative drafting markup, **except to the title, from the text of the original AO or any subsequent substitute version. It is written as a new ordinance. See the AM for a summary of changes.)*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.45 [05] [AND SECTIONS 8.45.015 AND 15.20.020] TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PROTECTED [PUBLIC] PREMISES AND PROHIBIT CONSTRUCTION ON PUBLIC LAND BY PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES [AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS CONSISTENT WITH CITY OF GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON AND OTHER LAW].

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code prohibits unauthorized camping on public property, and provides for a civil abatement process to remove prohibited campsites;

WHEREAS, pursuant to AMC 15.20.020B.15.b., certain protected land uses such as schools, childcare centers, and major trail systems receive priority in the abatement process;

WHEREAS, in the past year, the Municipality has abated 28 prohibited encampments, including several large encampments that had become entrenched over the course of several years, such as the encampment at Davis Park and adjacent snow dump site in the Mountain View neighborhood;

WHEREAS, in the past year, the Municipality has increased staff capacity, improved inter-departmental coordination, and dedicated significant resources to addressing the root causes of homelessness; this includes making it easier to build housing, funding year-round shelter, increasing access to appropriate care to people in crisis, as well as holding people accountable for illegal and dangerous behavior;

WHEREAS, entrenched camps are not safe or beneficial for the people in them (who are often victimized) or the people around them (who suffer increased rates of crime and reduced access to public spaces);

WHEREAS, clearing these entrenched camps involves significant coordination between municipal departments, costs significantly more (in terms of municipal time, resources, and funds) and takes longer to complete;

WHEREAS, there are certain places within the Municipality where camping is always inappropriate or unsafe, such as playgrounds, schools, and other areas frequented by children; as well as streets, sidewalks, snow disposal sites, and trails;

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality has a strong interest in ensuring the safety of its
3 residents by reducing pedestrian injury and death in and along roadways;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, there is certain conduct that is always inappropriate and unsafe,
6 including the unauthorized construction of structures with hard sides, roofs, or walls
7 on public property;
8

9 **WHEREAS**, instituting criminal penalties for the most unsafe and inappropriate
10 camping activity and locations (1) sends a clear message to the community that
11 such unsafe and inappropriate activities will not be tolerated and (2) allows for more
12 rapid enforcement action where appropriate, while (3) managing the risk of litigation
13 challenges that would be expected to arise from broader legislation
14

15 **WHEREAS**, instituting criminal penalties for camping in unsafe and inappropriate
16 locations does not diminish the Municipality's ability to abate unsafe and
17 inappropriate camps in other locations, and in fact increases the Municipality's ability
18 to use civil abatement tools effectively and efficiently;
19

20 **WHEREAS**, quickly clearing camps through criminal warnings and enforcement
21 action will reduce the number of camps that become entrenched, thereby increasing
22 public safety for vulnerable individuals as well as the surrounding neighborhoods,
23 and reducing the drain on municipal resources; now, therefore,
24

25 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:
26

27 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code 8.45 is hereby amended to add the following
28 new section of code (*requiring no legislative formatting*):
29

30 **8.45.015 – Prohibited camping on protected premises.**
31

32 A. In addition to any other provision of this code, a person commits the
33 offense of prohibited camping on protected premises if the person
34 knowingly camps without permission or authority to do so on public
35 or private land under the following circumstances:

- 36 1. On or within 200 feet of paved greenbelt and major trail
37 systems (including but not limited to the Coastal Trail, Chester
38 Creek Trail, Ship Creek Trail, and Campbell Creek Trail),
39 measured from the paved edge of the trail;
40 2. On or in any street, road, highway, sidewalk, bridge, tunnel,
41 railroad track, snow disposal site, or runway;

- 1 3. Within 100 feet of the outer edge of:
- 2 a. any street, road, or highway, if the street, road, or highway
- 3 has a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or greater; or
- 4 b. any railroad track or runway; or

- 5 4. On or within 500 feet of:
- 6 a. The edge of any playground area;
- 7 b. The edge of any athletic field or other maintained (such as
- 8 groomed or mowed) open field on parkland;
- 9 c. The lot line of any parcel containing any school or licensed
- 10 childcare center; or
- 11 d. The lot line of any parcel containing any neighborhood
- 12 recreation center as defined in Title 21, licensed homeless
- 13 shelter as defined in chapter 16.125, or permit-based
- 14 campground.

15 B. For purposes of this section, distance shall be measured from the

16 nearest edge of the protected premises enumerated above to any

17 portion of the prohibited campsite.

18 C. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor, with the following

19 exceptions:

- 20 1. Violation of section 8.45.015A.4.a, 8.45.015A.4.c, or
- 21 8.45.015A.2 is a class A misdemeanor; and
- 22 2. Where a person is in violation of this section and refuses to
- 23 immediately comply with a warning from someone with
- 24 apparent authority, the violation is a class A misdemeanor.
- 25

Section 2. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.45 is hereby amended to add the following new section (*requiring no legislative formatting*):

8.45.017 Prohibited construction on public land.

A. A person commits the offense of prohibited construction on public land if the person:

1. knowingly engages in the construction, in whole or in part, of any hard-walled, hard-roofed, or hard-floored structure of any kind on land owned or controlled by the Municipality of Anchorage or the State of Alaska without permission or authority to do so; or
2. in a manner designed to facilitate camping, knowingly excavates, removes, relocates, or adds dirt, sand, gravel, rocks, or similar material on land owned or controlled by the Municipality of Anchorage or the State of Alaska without permission or authority to do so.

B. A person attempts to commit the offense of prohibited construction on public land if the person:

1. knowingly possesses, on land owned or controlled by the Municipality of Anchorage or the State of Alaska, without permission or authority to do so, materials that could be used to construct in whole or in part any hard-walled, hard-roofed, or hard-floored structure of any kind, such as but not limited to lumber, pallets, boards, logs, bricks, cinder blocks, or any other hard construction material.

C. Violation of subsection A is a class A misdemeanor.

D. Violation of subsection B is a class B misdemeanor.

Section 3. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.05.025 is hereby amended to add as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

8.05.025 Minor offense fine schedule; misdemeanor penalty reference table; and state surcharge.

*** **

B. Misdemeanor offenses reference table.

Section	Description	Penalty	Penalty Section
*** **			
Chapter 8.45 TRESPASS			
8.45.010(A)(1)—(4)	Trespass	Class A	8.05.020H.1.
8.45.015(A)(1), (3); 8.45.015(A)(4)(b), (d)	Prohibited camping on protected premises	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
8.45.015(A)(4)(a), (c); 8.45.015(A)(2)	Prohibited camping on protected premises	Class A	8.05.020H.1.
8.45.017A	Prohibited construction on public land	Class A	8.05.020H.1.
8.45.017B	Prohibited construction on public land- attempt	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
8.45.020(A)(1), (2)	Unauthorized entry	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
*** **			

*** **

(AO No. 2014-42, § 1, 6-21-14; AO No. 2015-7, § 2, 2-24-15; AO No. 2015-84, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-87, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-123(S), § 2, 11-10-15; EO No. 2016-1, § 1, 7-12-16; AO No. 2016-83(S), § 1, 7-26-16; AO No. 2016-114, § 1, 12-15-16; AO No. 2017-156, § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-34(S), § 4, 7-26-18; AO No. 2019-25, § 2, 3-5-19; AO No. 2023-100(S), § 1, 11-7-23)

Section 4. Anchorage Municipal Code section 15.20.020 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

15.20.020 Public nuisances prohibited; enumeration.

*** **

B. Public nuisances include, but are not limited to, the following acts and conditions:

*** **

15. *Prohibited campsites.* A prohibited campsite is an area where one or more persons are camping on public land in violation of **chapter[SECTION] 8.45[.010]**, chapter 25.70, or any other provision of this Code. A prohibited campsite is subject to abatement by the municipality. The municipal official

responsible for an abatement action may accomplish the abatement with the assistance of a contractor, association or organization. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following procedure may be used to abate a prohibited campsite:

* * * * *

(GAAB 16.68.110, 18.15.020, 18.15.030, 18.20.030, 18.20.060; CAC 8.10.020, 8.10.050; AO No. 113-76; AO No. 78-48; AO No. 79-63; AO No. 93-173(S), § 3, 2-24-94; AO No. 95-42, § 3, 3-23-95; AO No. 2001-145(S-1), § 12, 12-11-01; AO No. 2003-130, § 4, 10-7-03; AO No. 2009-83(S), § 2, 7-7-09; AO No. 2010-43(S), § 1, 6-22-10; AO No. 2010-63, § 1, 9-14-10; AO No. 2011-52, § 1, 4-26-11; AO No. 2016-81(S), § 2, 8-25-16; AO No. 2017-119(S), § 2, 11-9-17; AO No. 2017-130(S), § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-53(S), § 1, 6-26-18; AO No. 2018-61, § 1, 7-31-18; AO No. 2018-118, § 2, 1-1-19; AO No. 2019-94(S), § 2, 8-6-19; AO No. 2024-55(S), § 1, 5-21-24)

Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective 7 days from the date of passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk

(S) Submitted by: Assembly Chair
Constant

(S) Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's
Office

(S) For reading: June 24, 2025

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-74(S)

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.05 AND SECTIONS 8.45.015**
3 **AND 15.20.020 TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PREMISES BY**
4 **PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS**
5 **CONSISTENT WITH CITY OF GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON AND OTHER LAW;**
6 **AND SUBMITTING A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF**
7 **THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AT A REGULAR ELECTION THE**
8 **QUESTION OF WHETHER TO APPROVE AN AREAWIDE SPECIAL TAX LEVY**
9 **DEDICATED TO PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF ADDRESSING PROHIBITED**
10 **CAMPSITES AND PROVIDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF**
11 **DISPLACED HOMELESS PERSONS.**

12
13
14 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage continues to experience extensive unauthorized
15 encampments that endanger public health, safety, and the quiet enjoyment of public
16 places; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, on June 28 2024 the United States Supreme Court, in *City of Grants*
19 *Pass v. Johnson*, held that local governments may criminalize public
20 camping regardless of available shelter capacity without violating the Eighth
21 Amendment so long as the prohibition targets conduct rather than “status”; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, on April 18, 2024, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly postponed
24 indefinitely proposed AO 2024-39, leaving Title 15’s abatement process
25 (AMC15.20.020) as the Municipality’s primary tool despite heavy litigation burdens,
26 now heightened by the Alaska Supreme Court’s decision in *Smith v. Municipality of*
27 *Anchorage*, Op. No. 7767 (May 9, 2025), **increasing costs and resources**
28 **required for abatement actions**; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly now finds it necessary and proper to adopt a clear,
31 constitutionally sound criminal-code alternative that can be enforced expeditiously
32 while protecting due-process rights and personal property

33
34 **WHEREAS**, **per the annual Point in Time count there were 479 unsheltered**
35 **persons in the Municipality at the end of January 2024 (data for 2025 is not yet**
36 **available), and a total of 2,684 persons experiencing homelessness; and**

37
38 **WHEREAS**, **according to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness at the**
39 **end of April there were 3,041 persons experiencing homelessness in the**
40 **Municipality, and of those 548 are unsheltered; and**

41
42 **WHEREAS**, **the Municipality’s shelter occupancy overview dashboard**
43 **indicates recently there were 543 persons sheltered with a system capacity of**

548, at 99% of capacity, and the non-congregate shelters had 159 units occupied by 310 people, with a system capacity of 166 non-congregate units putting it at 96% of capacity; and

WHEREAS, given the data above, Municipal action to address prohibited campsites, primarily occupied by unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness, is likely to involve hundreds of persons and incur significantly increased cost burdens over prior years due the criminal justice system costs resulting from enactment and enforcement of new criminal camping offenses, including police time for arrests, evidence preservation, and processing, prosecution through the court system including providing for indigent defense costs, incarceration costs for those convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, storage of personal property; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly desires to provide funding for the costs of addressing prohibited camping and providing for the management and care of homeless individuals without cutting currently funded municipal programs and services under the tax cap; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.05.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.05.015 Definitions.

A. *Definitions.* Except as otherwise provided in this title or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions of the words and phrases in AS 11.81.900, or the definitions applicable to the Alaska Statutes provisions corresponding to the offense described in sections of this title, shall be the definitions of those same words and phrases used in this title. The definitions of words and terms below shall apply for purposes of this title unless otherwise provided:

1. *Animal control officer* means public employee charged by law with the duty to enforce the provisions of Title 17 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.
2. *Camping* means the use of space for the purpose of sleeping or establishing temporary living quarters, including, but not limited to, erection of a tent or other shelter.
3. *Child* refers to any person under 16 years of age.
4. *Domestic violence and crime involving domestic violence* mean one or more of the following offenses or an offense under a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having elements similar to these offenses, or an attempt to commit the offense, by a household member against another household member:
 - a. A crime against the person under AMC 8.10;

- b. Criminal trespass under AMC 8.45;
- c. Criminally negligent burning under AMC 8.20.030;
- d. Criminal mischief under AMC 8.20.010;
- e. Violating a protective order under AMC 8.30.105;
- f. Harassment under AMC 8.10.110.

For purposes of this section, household member has the definition assigned to that term by AS 18.66.990(5).

5. *Family member* means a:

- a. Spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of the victim, whether related by blood, marriage or adoption;
- b. Person who lives, or has previously lived, in a spousal relationship with the victim;
- c. Person who lives in the same household as the victim; or
- d. Person who is a former spouse of the victim or is or has been in a dating, courtship or engagement relationship with the victim.

6. *First Responder* means firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, member of the mobile crisis team or crisis intervention team, "peace officer" as defined by AS 11.81.900, or other public employee, who, in the course of their professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.

7. *Lawful order* means an order which is given where the defendant's conduct or speech substantially impedes an officer in the performance of any duties in effecting an arrest, in investigating a crime, or in ensuring the public safety.

8. *Minor* refers to any person under 18 years of age.

9. *Minor offense* means a noncriminal offense punishable only by a fine, but not by imprisonment or other penalty; conviction of a minor offense does not give rise to any disability or legal disadvantage based on conviction of a crime; a person charged with a minor offense is not entitled to a trial by jury or to have a public defender or other counsel appointed at public expense to represent the person.

10. Public property or premises means a property owned by the Municipality or state to which the public or a substantial group of persons has access and includes, but is not limited to, streets, highways, sidewalks, alleys, transportation facilities, parking areas, convention centers, sports arenas, schools, plazas, parks, and playgrounds.

11. Public transit worker means an employee of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applicant, recipient, subrecipient, or contractor who is involved in any aspect of an agency's public transit operation funded by the FTA, including those employees who, in the course of their professional duties, operates a vehicle under the People Mover, AnchorRIDES, RideShare, or any other program operating under the authority of chapter 11.70.

(AO No. 2014-42, § 1, 6-21-14; AO No. 2024-20(S-1), § 1, 4-9-24)

Section 2. Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 8.45 is hereby amended to enact the following new section of code (*requiring no legislative formatting*):

8.45.015 Prohibited camping.

- A. A person commits the offense of prohibited camping if the person knowingly camps on public premises or property without permission or authority to do so.
- B. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

Section 3. Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.05.025 is hereby amended to add as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

8.05.025 Minor offense fine schedule; misdemeanor penalty reference table; and state surcharge.

*** **

- B. *Misdemeanor offenses reference table.*

Section	Description	Penalty	Penalty Section
*** **			
Chapter 8.45 TRESPASS			
8.45.010(A)(1)—(4)	Trespass	Class A	8.05.020H.1.
8.45.015	Prohibited Camping	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
8.45.020(A)(1), (2)	Unauthorized entry	Class B	8.05.020H.2.
*** **			

*** **

(AO No. 2014-42, § 1, 6-21-14; AO No. 2015-7, § 2, 2-24-15; AO No. 2015-84, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-87, § 2, 9-24-15; AO No. 2015-123(S), § 2, 11-10-15; EO No. 2016-1, § 1, 7-12-16; AO No. 2016-83(S), § 1, 7-26-16; AO No. 2016-114, § 1, 12-15-16; AO No. 2017-156, § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-34(S), § 4, 7-26-18; AO No. 2019-25, § 2, 3-5-19; AO No. 2023-100(S), § 1, 11-7-23)

Section 4. Anchorage Municipal Code section 15.20.020 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

15.20.020 Public nuisances prohibited; enumeration.

*** **

B. Public nuisances include, but are not limited to, the following acts and conditions:

*** **

15. *Prohibited campsites.* A prohibited campsite is an area where one or more persons are camping on public land in violation of chapter[SECTION] 8.45[.010], chapter 25.70, or any other provision of this Code. A prohibited campsite is subject to abatement by the municipality. The municipal official responsible for an abatement action may accomplish the abatement with the assistance of a contractor, association or organization. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following procedure may be used to abate a prohibited campsite:

*** **

(GAAB 16.68.110, 18.15.020, 18.15.030, 18.20.030, 18.20.060; CAC 8.10.020, 8.10.050; AO No. 113-76; AO No. 78-48; AO No. 79-63; AO No. 93-173(S), § 3, 2-24-94; AO No. 95-42, § 3, 3-23-95; AO No. 2001-145(S-1), § 12, 12-11-01; AO No. 2003-130, § 4, 10-7-03; AO No. 2009-83(S), § 2, 7-7-09; AO No. 2010-43(S), § 1, 6-22-10; AO No. 2010-63, § 1, 9-14-10; AO No. 2011-52, § 1, 4-26-11; AO No. 2016-81(S), § 2, 8-25-16; AO No. 2017-119(S), § 2, 11-9-17; AO No. 2017-130(S), § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-53(S), § 1, 6-26-18; AO No. 2018-61, § 1, 7-31-18; AO No. 2018-118, § 2, 1-1-19; AO No. 2019-94(S), § 2, 8-6-19; AO No. 2024-55(S), § 1, 5-21-24)

Section 5. (NOTE: this AO Section 5 is newly added in the (S) version, with legislative formatting as if in original) *Ballot Proposition.* The Assembly hereby submits to the qualified voters of the Municipality at the regular municipal election to be held on April 7, 2026, the proposition of whether or not the Municipality should levy a special tax excluded from the tax increase limitation as described in Anchorage Municipal Charter section 14.03(b)(3) to collect not to exceed \$15,000,000 annually, dedicated to pay the costs necessary to address prohibited campsites and provide support for the management and care of displaced homeless persons within the Municipality.

The Clerk shall prepare the ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters as provided by this ordinance and the Anchorage Municipal Code and shall perform all necessary steps in accordance with law to place this proposition before the voters at the regular election. The proposition must receive a majority vote of those voting on the question to be approved. The proposition shall be substantially in the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. _____

SPECIAL TAX LEVY TO PROVIDE FUNDING
TO ADDRESS PROHIBITED CAMPSITES AND SUPPORT
THE MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF DISPLACED HOMELESS PERSONS

For the purpose of paying the costs necessary to address prohibited campsites and provide support for the management and care of displaced homeless persons, shall Anchorage levy a special tax on all taxable real and personal property areawide to collect an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 annually, dedicated solely to those purposes?

Voter approval of this proposition authorizes for each \$100,000 of assessed property value in Anchorage (based on the estimated total 2025 assess valuation) an annual increase in taxes not to exceed [\$_____]. The special tax revenue is excluded from the tax increase limitation calculation pursuant to Charter § 14.03(b)(3).

The tax shall be levied and collected areawide from real and personal property within the entire Municipality of Anchorage.

YES [] NO []

Section 6. Implementation

- A. The Chief of Police shall review, update, or promulgate new Anchorage Police Policies, Regulations, and Procedures as necessary to implement this ordinance within thirty (30) days of passage.
- B. The Anchorage Health Department may publish a daily shelter bed availability dashboard accessible to officers and the public.
- C. The Municipal Attorney shall report, as part of its regular legal brief to the Assembly, on citations issued, arrests made, and property stored under this ordinance for at least one-year.

Section 7[6]. The proposition set forth in Section 5 shall become effective upon certification of the election, if and only if said proposition is supported by a majority of the qualified voters of the Municipality voting on the question during the regular Anchorage Municipal election held on April 7,

1 **2026. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of this ordinance shall become effective**
2 **contemporaneously with Section 5 if approved by the voters [This ordinance**
3 **shall be effective thirty days (30) after]. The remainder of this ordinance shall**
4 **be effective immediately upon** passage and approval by the Assembly.
5

6
7
8 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
9 of _____, 2025.
10

11
12
13
14 _____
Chair

15 ATTEST:

16
17
18 _____
19 Municipal Clerk
20