

2024 ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY WORK PLAN

PRIORITIES

- **Housing Action** – communicate the Assembly’s housing vision, streamline codes and processes, and spur innovative attainable housing
- **Municipal Workforce** – support recruitment and retention of a productive and qualified municipal workforce
- **Port of Alaska Modernization** – support rapid timeline that launches Phase II construction by summer 2024
- **Public Health, Safety and Quality of Life** – fund public safety & mental health services; support the Crisis Now model; invest in outdoor and public spaces
- **Fully Functional Municipal Services** – closely monitor service delivery to ensure high quality, accessible, and transparent municipal services and operations

Q1 & Q2 2024 PROGRESS REPORT – 6/3/2024

Housing Action Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
Finalize HOME Initiative to simplify residential zoning	MZ, DV, AB	Brought HOME Initiative (AO 2023-87) to PZC in a series of meetings and worksessions, introduced adopted plan amendments (AO 2024-44), launched HOME webpage, met with 25+ community organizations through end of May.	In Progress
Launch a program to track short-term rentals	RS, MZ	AO 2023-110(S-1), As Amended on 3/5	Complete – vetoed
Develop a program for third party review for commercial development	KC, RS	AO is No. 2023-136(S)*, As Amended on 2/27	Complete
Reduce hurdles for rehabbing old buildings that have nonconforming characteristics	CC, AB, KC	AO No. 2024-15 Removing 10% Nonconformity Fee passed on 2/27; other work is still needed	In Progress

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		Title 21 Innovation Section; allow for more flexibility in permitting approval processes. [CC]	
Review open space requirements for multi-family housing	KC	AO 2024-16 Private Open Space reduction on 2/27	Complete
Create catalog of pre-approved residential building plans	MZ, ML	Decided to focus on ADUs, kick-off mtg on 6/11	In Progress
Adjust Planning appeal fees	DV, KGMZ	Early visioning underway	Prep
Investigate infrastructure funding solutions	CC	Identifying resources to hire a grant hunting team	Prep
Review and update Residential Design Standards	AB, DV, MZ	Developers have brought suggested changes – currently reviewing	In Progress
Continue to utilize vacant and abandoned buildings for housing	GM, FR	Provided \$1.3M to AAHLT for pilot; ACDA seeking federal funding for larger program	In Progress
Investigate and update tax incentives for housing development and upgrades	CC, AB, ZJ	Met with Jack Gadamus, waiting for data on existing exemptions Expand 4+ unit tax abatement citywide [MZ, CC, GM]	In Progress
Create code “safe harbor” program to encourage development of old housing stock	AB, FR	Research phase to explore what works elsewhere	Prep
Continue to refine Refine Code to reduce the cost and timeline to build in Anchorage	RS		

Quality Municipal Services Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
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Wage Increases <u>and retention strategies</u> for MOA employees	MZ, AB, GM	Q1 Budget included funds for employee retention initiatives; Assembly funded \$150K for MOA workforce study; Phase 1 of study – employee satisfaction survey to begin this summer	In Progress
See MOA fully staffed	RS, ML	<u>Consider this a metric of the performance in this category?</u>	
Update Public Records code to bring to date with current technologies i.e. video and electronic	MZ	<u>Code sections identified, waiting on transition to introduce Records retention policy, more substantial Public Records Code reform may be in order; update on various systems in use, cost to public, and cost of improvements (APD incident database; permit processing)</u> <u>Body camera data [KPV]</u>	In Progress
Ensure full implementation of Online checkbook	CC, AB	Phase 1 complete: Online checkbook launched; Phase 2 is in Admin <u>(lifecycle / progress report of a contract, including terms), Phase 3 could be tied to a map of projects by neighborhood as an open government portal</u>	In Progress
Review of code for community councils for procedures of operation to ensure a system that adds value	CC, DV, AB, KPV	<u>New executive director, review potential new models in collaboration with FCC (related to CIP/CIB process improvements)</u>	<u>Slated for fall</u>
Review and update MOA hiring practices	RS, CC, ML, KC	<u>Review Legislative Branch hiring processes (classification) and consider amendments to HR Code</u>	

Economic Development Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
Establish Anchorage Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPs) program with AEDC for a sales tax	RS, FR, SM	AEDC committee will soon have proposal ready for Assembly review & input, <u>slate Assembly process for review</u>	In Progress
Continue to improve and simplify Muni processes and regulations on business	AB	Funded year one of online bidding system <u>[AB, DV, KB]</u> ; set policy for free applications for users; <u>childcare licensing code update [AB, KB]</u>	In Progress

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Codify and confirm appointments for new Anchorage Child Care and Early Education Fund Accountability Board, to provide robust recommendations for marijuana tax revenue for early childhood education for FY25 budget	AB, KPV, KC	AO 2024-61 proposed to create board with plan to vote in June or July	In Progress
Understand and address economic disparity in Anchorage	GM, <u>KB</u>	<u>Continuing with CEDC, interested in modeling</u>	<u>Prep</u>

Homelessness Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
Create public dashboard on Assembly home page of homelessness data and metrics to drive data-based decision making	RS		
Ensure Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is funded through 23-24 winter 2024, with a smooth transition to summer operations	FR, AB, <u>KPV</u>	ECWS funded for summer (if no Gov veto) and first months of fall; <u>evaluate ECWS needs for 2024-2025 Winter Season</u>	In Progress
Identify sustainable policy and funding for emergency cold weather shelter	<u>AB</u> KPV, RS		
Prioritize housing investments & policies to reduce number of people experiencing homelessness and demand for shelter	Housing & Home. Comm.		

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Continue to implement the recommendations from the Complex Behavioral Health Task Force report	Health Policy/ <u>Public Safety</u>	AHD issued RFP for Behavioral Health Mobile Case Management, <u>need to review recommendations</u>	In Progress
Refine camp abatement code and prepare for US Supreme Court ruling	FR	<u>Unsure of current status and proposals</u>	In Progress, <u>waiting for court ruling</u>

Assembly Business Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
Join people together to solve local problems and help residents engage in local government	All	Held Public Finance Nerd Nite, Made over 20 presentations to community councils and organizations	In Progress
Adopt Assembly Code of Ethics & Conduct	KC		
Establish equitable funding for the Legislative branch	MZ		
Build and strengthen relationships with State & Federal counterparts	CC, AB	Have been holding regular meetings with Congressional Delegation and Anchorage Delegation of Legislature	In Progress
Continue to build systems and strengthen the branch to make it a desirable place to serve and work	CC		
Rollout Assembly meeting public engagement improvements, including production upgrades and civic engagement materials	staff	A/V upgrade underway, purchasing new video equipment and transitioning production to the post-Crabb era as of June 3.	In Progress
Secure at least two of the MOA's state legislative requests	AB, CC, FR	Sent delegation to JNU, worked with lobbyist and Admin on meetings with legislators; 2+ priorities passed	Complete

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Develop strategic plan for equitable and effective use of the alcohol tax	KB, DV, AB	Draft plan developed, Assembly WS on 5/10, revised version will be shared at 6/13 Rules meeting	In Progress
Improve CIP and CIB process to broaden input from community on capital project priorities	AB, MV	Promoted CC survey; WS on CIP & CIB 5/31; schedule Aug WS to begin 2025 prioritization	In Progress

Public Health, Safety and Quality of Life Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
See APD and AFD fully staffed	RS		
Revise purpose & composition of Public Safety Advisory Commission (sunsets Oct. 2024)	AB, KPV		
Continue wildfire mitigation and response		Public Safety Committee to hold a briefing at next mtg	In Progress
Continue to push for AFD Mobile Crisis and APD Mobile Intervention Teams to 24/7 service		APD and AFD are getting close, went to 7-day? service in April	In Progress
Continue monitoring of Body Worn Camera implementation for Police Department			
Determine a path for Eklutna River Restoration that includes full dam removal	CC, MZ	Submitted comments on Draft Plan (AR 2024-40, As Amended); will work on outreach to Governor over summer; pursued technical and legal routes to protect water rights and MOA funds	In Progress
Invest in housing, parks and trails to make sure we have a city where people want to live, work and play	All	Voters approved CASA and Park Bonds; 5 th Ave protected bike lane pilot	In Progress

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Hold State of Alaska accountable to increase the Base Student Allocation and address inequities in Anchorage funding formula	KB, GM, AB	Passed resolutions of support; included the request in the Legislative Program	Complete for 2024; address in 2025 Legislative Program
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Infrastructure and Transportation Goals

Goal	Lead	Actions	Status
Complete a decision on design for both Terminals 1 and 2 in Port of Alaska Modernization program	MZ, CC, ZJ	Presentation at EUOC 5/17, NE Stabilization construction has begun	In Progress
Snow Planning - review various snow removal plan costs (84hr., 72 hr., 48hr.) in terms of labor, equipment etc.	MZ, AB		
Assume snow plowing and funding of all state roads except Glenn, Minnesota and New Seward	RS		
Increase investment in safe streets, road maintenance, and non-motorized transportation	DV, MZ	Address through AMATS	
Revive the Stormwater Utility plan and identify sources for infrastructure funding	DV		
Secure local control of 5 th and 6 th Avenues	MZ, DV	Waiting for DT Streets Engineering Plan for more info	In Progress