

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-28

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.25.070 TO REQUIRE THE REPORT OF LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF DISCOVERY.

WHEREAS, laws that require the reporting of lost and stolen firearms promote public safety by enabling law enforcement to better track firearms used in the commission of a crime and illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, Federal Firearms Licensees are required under, 18 U.S.C. § 923(g)(6), to report any firearm stolen or lost from their inventory within 48 hours of discovery to ATF and to their local law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, there is no federal law requiring private citizens to report the theft or loss of a firearm, and currently only 15 states and the District of Columbia require private citizens to report to law enforcement when their weapons are lost or stolen; and

WHEREAS, a yearlong investigation by The Trace and more than a dozen NBC TV stations conducted analysis of more than 23,000 stolen firearms recovered by police between 2010 and 2016 and found that the majority of these weapons were recovered in connection with crimes¹; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of stolen firearms in the United States originate via thefts from private citizens and not from Federal Firearms Licensees²; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey estimates that only about 75% of firearm thefts from private citizens are reported to a law enforcement agency³; and

WHEREAS, a study by the journal Injury Epidemiology indicates the likelihood of a firearm being involved in the commission of a crime increases by a factor of three if the firearm is lost and by a factor of nearly nine if it is stolen from its rightful owner⁴; and

¹ See <https://www.thetrace.org/2017/11/stolen-guns-violent-crime-america/>.

² BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS, National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Crime Guns – Vol. Two, Part V (Jan. 11, 2023) *available at* <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/nfcta-volume-ii-part-v-firearm-thefts/download> (“From 2017 to 2021, there were 1,074,022 firearms reported stolen. About 3% (34,339) were stolen in FFL thefts, 1% (13,145) were stolen in interstate shipments, and almost 96% (1,026,538) were stolen in thefts from private citizens.”)

³ UNITED STATES. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, National Crime Victimization Survey 2016: Revised Version *available at* <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37296.v2>

⁴ *Available at* <https://injejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-024-00491-8#Tab1>.

1 **WHEREAS**, a 2016 survey Prison Inmates indicated that almost half of the
2 respondents had acquired the firearm used during offense for which they had been
3 convicted either from purchasing it off the street or stolen it from another party⁵; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the majority of firearms used in commission of a crime in the State of
6 Alaska originated within the State⁶; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, APD reports that approximately 400 firearms a year are stolen in
9 Anchorage and 380,000 nationwide. Giffords Law Center reports that nearly half of
10 these guns are never reports to law enforcement and only a small percentage are
11 recovered; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, mandatory reporting requirements also help return lost guns to their
14 rightful owners and protect gun owners from being wrongly implicated in crimes
15 committed with lost or stolen guns; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Police Executive Research Forum recommends the
18 implementation of laws requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms to track and
19 help prevent firearms from entering the black market⁷; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska does not require firearm owners to report the loss
22 or theft of a firearm; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Alaska Statute 29.35.145 states that “a municipality may not enact or
25 enforce an ordinance regulating the possession, ownership, sale, transfer, use,
26 carrying, transportation, licensing, taxation, or registration of firearms or knives,”
27 however the Statutes are silent regarding the authority to mandate the reporting of
28 the loss or theft of a firearm; now, therefore,
29

30 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

31
32 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.25.070 is hereby amended to
33 read as follows:
34

35 **8.25.070 Failure to report theft.[PROVISION OF FIREARM TO**
36 **VIOLENT MINOR BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN.**
37 **(REPEALED)]**
38

39 **A. It is unlawful for any person who possesses, owns or controls a firearm**
40 **to fail to report the theft or loss of the firearm to a peace officer or law**
41 **enforcement agency, providing a description of the firearm including**
42 **serial number, if known, within 48 hours of knowing, or having reason**
43 **to know, the firearm is stolen or cannot be located through reasonable**

⁵ UNITED STATES. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016 (2019) available at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/suficspi16.pdf> (The survey specifically found that 43.2% of firearms were acquired off the street or an underground market and 6.4% had been directly stolen by the inmate).

⁶ See Firearm Trace Data: Alaska -2023 at [Firearms Trace Data: Alaska - 2023 | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](https://www.federalbureauofinvestigation.gov/document/suficspi16.pdf).

⁷ See “Reducing Gun Violence: What Works, and What Can Be Done Now” available at <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/reducinggunviolence.pdf>.

effort.

B. Violation of this section is class B misdemeanor.

(AO No. 94-22, § 2, 2-15-94; AO No. 98-59(S), § 1, 5-19-98; AO No. 2003-73, § 3, 4-22-03; AO No. 2006-39, § 4, 4-11-06)

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 123-2025

Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

From: Assembly Member Bronga

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.25.070 TO REQUIRE THE REPORT OF LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF DISCOVERY.

The proposed ordinance amends section 8.25.070 to require anyone who owns or possesses a firearm to report its loss or theft within 48 hours of discovering its loss.

Although Alaska Statute 29.35.145 states that “a municipality may not enact or enforce an ordinance regulating the possession, ownership, sale, transfer, use, carrying, transportation, licensing, taxation, or registration of firearms or knives,” this ordinance does not actually require any action or regulate the conduct described by that statute. Rather it only regulates the conduct of a person who has ceased to possess, carry, or control a firearm.

I request your support for the ordinance.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

Respectfully submitted: Karen Bronga, Assembly Member
District 5 – East Anchorage