

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at the
request of the Mayor
Prepared by: Dept. of Municipal Manager
For reading: January 7, 2025

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025 - 5

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 24.25, EMERGENCY SNOWFALL**
3 **PROCLAMATIONS, OBSTRUCTION OF SNOW ROUTES AND SNOW**
4 **REMOVAL.**
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6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage has experienced multiple years of
8 above-average snowfall; and,
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 24.25 provides the option for the
11 Municipality to exercise certain additional powers when confronted with
12 extraordinary snowfall; and,
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14 **WHEREAS**, the language of chapter 24.25 requires updating to align with the
15 types of street signs and traffic restrictions currently in use in the Municipality; and,
16

17 **WHEREAS**, by updating the language to align with current practice, chapter 24.25
18 can again become a useful tool to support public safety and expedient snow
19 removal across the Municipality; now, therefore,
20

21 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**
22

23 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 24.25 is hereby amended to read
24 as follows:
25

26 **Chapter 24.25 - MAJOR SNOWSTORM EVENTS, PROCLAMATIONS,**
27 **UNLAWFUL ACTS [EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATIONS,**
28 **OBSTRUCTION OF SNOW ROUTES AND SNOW REMOVAL]**
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30 **24.25.010 Definitions.**
31

32 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall
33 have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the
34 context clearly indicates a different meaning:
35

36 *Snow route* means a street designated as such [BY SIGNS ERECTED] by
37 the traffic engineer. A list of such streets shall be available on the municipal
38 website.
39

40 (AO No. 87-138(S))
41

42 **24.25.020 Major snowstorm event – Authority of mayor.**
43 **[EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATION –**

AUTHORITY OF MAYOR.]

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3 A. Whenever the mayor determines that because of snow, freezing
4 rain, sleet, ice, snowdrifts or other natural phenomena which create,
5 or are likely to create, hazardous road conditions impeding, or likely
6 to impede, the free movement of fire, health, police, emergency or
7 other vehicular traffic, or the safety and welfare of the community,
8 the mayor [FOUR OR MORE INCHES OF SNOW, ICE, SLEET OR
9 A COMBINATION THEREOF HAS BEEN DEPOSITED UPON
10 STREETS WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OR THAT
11 SUCH AN IMMINENT DEPOSIT HAS BEEN PREDICTED BY THE
12 U.S. WEATHER SERVICE, HE] may implement the provisions of this
13 chapter in order to facilitate the safe and orderly flow of traffic while
14 expediting snow and ice removal from the streets.
15
16 B. Any proclamation issued pursuant to this chapter shall have the force
17 of law and shall supersede any conflicting provision of law during the
18 time while it is effective.
19
20 C. In addition to the prohibited conduct described in section 24.25.040,
21 the mayor may impose the following [PROHIBITIONS AND TRAFFIC
22 CONDITIONS IN A PROCLAMATION]:
23
24 [1. ADVANCE THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF TRAFFIC
25 REGULATIONS WHICH ARE AIMED AT THE FACILITATION
26 OF RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC PATTERNS.]
27 1[2]. Prohibition of on-street parking on streets and highways and
28 designated snow routes, and ticketing, towing, and/or removal
29 of vehicles, equipment, or materials located in those restricted
30 areas.
31 [PROHIBIT LEAVING VEHICLES UNATTENDED OR
32 OTHERWISE OBSTRUCTING CERTAIN AREAS DURING
33 CERTAIN TIMES OF THE DAY.]
34 [3. ARRANGE FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL TO A PLACE
35 OF SAFETY OF EVERY VEHICLE OR OTHER
36 OBSTRUCTION IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE OR A
37 PROCLAMATION.]
38 2. Traffic flow adjustments such as lane closures, speed
39 reductions, and intersection controls.
40 3. Traffic control such as deployment of law enforcement to
41 critical roadways and intersections for accident response and
42 directing traffic.
43 4. Travel advisories or travel bans, including prohibition of non-
44 essential vehicles from using snow routes or other routes
45 designated by proclamation.
46 5. Waiver of formal procurement procedures, in accordance with
47 AMC section 7.20.090.
48
49 D. A proclamation issued pursuant to this chapter may also be used to
50 document and promulgate any public transit adjustments, such as
51 service suspension and rerouting, and plowing protocol adjustments,

1 such as changes in gate use or on-street snow storage, which may
 2 be imposed for the duration of the time while the proclamation is
 3 effective.

4
 5 (AO No. 87-138(S))

6
 7 **24.25.030 Major snowstorm event – Proclamation issuance.**
 8 **[EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATION –**
 9 **ISSUANCE.]**

- 10
 11 A. A proclamation issued pursuant to section 24.25.020 shall become
 12 effective no earlier than four hours after its issuance as follows:
 13
 14 1. Publication shall be made on the public notice page of the
 15 municipal website and via press release to [BY] print media
 16 and television and radio [BROADCASTS] news outlets
 17 throughout the Anchorage metropolitan area [NO LESS THAN
 18 THREE TIMES EACH]; and
 19 2. Publication shall include the time during which the
 20 proclamation shall be in effect, the nature of the behavior it
 21 proscribes and the areas it affects.
 22
 23 B. A proclamation may also be published in one or more newspapers of
 24 general circulation and published in the municipality.
 25

26 (AO No. 87-138(S))

27
 28 **24.25.040 Major snowstorm event – Unlawful acts.**
 29 **[EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATION –**
 30 **UNLAWFUL ACTS.]**

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 32 During the period in which a proclamation issued pursuant to section
 33 24.25.020 is effective, it shall be unlawful for any person to act in the
 34 following manner:
 35

- 36 A. Stop, stand or leave unattended a vehicle or any other obstruction
 37 anywhere on a snow route.
 38 B. Stop, stand or leave unattended a vehicle or any other obstruction on
 39 any street which the proclamation has closed to such activity.
 40 C. Obstruct snow removal in a manner which the proclamation has
 41 proscribed.
 42 D. Leave a vehicle unattended on a snow route, except for the limited
 43 purpose of notifying another person of the need for assistance with
 44 removal of that vehicle.
 45 E. Operate a vehicle, other than a law enforcement or public safety
 46 vehicle, on any street which has been closed to traffic by a
 47 proclamation issued under this chapter.
 48 F. Operate or leave unattended a vehicle in any manner which is
 49 contrary to the express terms of a proclamation.
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51 (AO No. 87-138(S))

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24.25.050 Major snowstorm event – Termination.
[EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATION –
TERMINATION.]

A proclamation issued by the mayor under section 24.25.030 shall terminate upon issuance of a proclamation of termination by the mayor announced in the same manner as the proclamation was originally announced.

(AO No. 87-138(S))

[24.25.060 OBSTRUCTION DURING STREET CLEANING AND SNOW
REMOVAL ON SNOW ROUTE]

[NO PERSON MAY OBSTRUCT ANY PART OF A SNOW ROUTE BY PLACING OR LEAVING UNATTENDED A VEHICLE, DUMPSTER OR ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH WOULD OBSTRUCT SNOW REMOVAL WHEN:

- A. FOUR OR MORE INCHES OF SNOW OR ICE HAS ACCUMULATED AT THAT LOCATION; OR
- B. THE MAYOR HAS DECLARED AN EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION TO THAT EFFECT PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER; AND
- C. THE LENGTH OF THE STREET FOR THAT BLOCK HAS NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY CLEARED OF SNOW AND ICE FROM CURB TO CURB.

(AO No. 87-138(S))]

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

AM No. 41 - 2025

Meeting Date: January 7, 2025

1 **FROM: MAYOR**

2
3 **SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**
4 **AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 24.25,**
5 **EMERGENCY SNOWFALL PROCLAMATIONS, OBSTRUCTION**
6 **OF SNOW ROUTES AND SNOW REMOVAL.**
7

8 Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 24.25 was adopted by the Anchorage
9 Assembly on December 15, 1987, via AO No. 87-138(S) in order “to facilitate safe
10 traffic flow and prompt snow removal at times of heavy snow accumulation.” The
11 chapter historically provided for a specific type of weather-related emergency
12 proclamation, separate and apart from the declaration of a civil emergency under
13 AMC chapter 3.80. The chapter has never been revised and relies heavily upon a
14 type of street sign which the Municipality no longer uses. Several other provisions
15 of the chapter do not reflect current practices and require updating.
16

17 This revised ordinance does the following:

- 18 1. Updates the provisions of code to align with current traffic regulation and
19 with the current needs of the Street Maintenance and Right of Way
20 Management teams during a snow event.
- 21 2. Revises the terminology used to recognize a “Major Snowstorm Event” as
22 an incident distinguishable from a true civil emergency governed by
23 Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 3.80 (a tool which can also be used in
24 the event of extreme weather).
- 25 3. Allows for the Mayor to, by proclamation and with appropriate publication
26 and notice to the public, flexibly declare parking and use restrictions on
27 roadways deemed most critical in a particular event.
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29 The purpose of these revisions is to turn AMC 24.25 into a practical, modern tool
30 further enabling the Municipality to timely address the needs of the community
31 during winter weather events.
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33 This ordinance has no private-sector economic effects and local government
34 effects are less than \$30,000. Pursuant to AMC 2.30.053B.1., a summary of
35 economic effects is not required.
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THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

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Prepared by: Municipal Manager's Office
Approved by: Rebecca A. Windt Pearson, Municipal Manager
Concur: Shay Throop, Director, Maintenance and Operations
Concur: Brad Coy, Municipal Traffic Engineer
Concur: Kent Kohlhase, Director, Public Works
Concur: Lance Wilbur, Director, Planning, Development, &
Public Works
Concur: Ona R. Brause, Director, OMB
Concur: Eva Gardner, Municipal Attorney
Concur: William D. Falsey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Concur: Rebecca A. Windt Pearson, Municipal Manager
Respectfully submitted: Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor