

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBER SELKREGG
ASSEMBLY MEMBER COFFEY
Prepared by: ASSEMBLY COUNSEL
For reading: August 12, 2008

CLERK'S OFFICE
APPROVED

Date: 8/12/08 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO NO. 2008-78(S)

1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING
2 ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ETHICS CODE SECTION 1.15.035, ADDITIONAL
3 PROVISIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS, TO CLARIFY THAT A MEMBER'S
4 PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE EXCUSED IN THE PUBLIC
5 INTEREST.
6

7
8 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

9
10 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 1.15.035E (Code of Ethics) is hereby
11 amended as follows. (*Other Subsections are not affected and therefore not set out*):

12
13 **1.15.035 Additional provisions for elected officials**

14 *** **

15
16 E. *Public interest.* An elected official shall place the public interest above any
17 financial or private interest when taking official action. If an elected official's
18 private relationships or interests prevent an elected official from placing the
19 public interest above a financial or private interest, or will diminish
20 interfere with exercising the public trust, the elected official shall disclose
21 this fact on the record and participation may be excused by the elected
22 body.

23
24 *** **

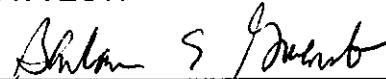
25 (AO No. 2006-140(S-1), § 1, 1-1-07)

26
27 **Section 2.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and
28 approval by the Assembly.

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30 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 12th day of
31 August, 2008.

32
33 
Chair

34 ATTEST:

35 
36 _____
37 Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM
NO. AM 406-2008

Meeting Date: August 12, 2008

1 **From:** ASSEMBLY MEMBER SELKREGG
2 **Subject:** **AO 2008-78(S) — AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL**
3 **ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ETHICS CODE**
4 **SECTION 1.15.035, ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR ELECTED**
5 **OFFICIALS, TO CLARIFY THAT A MEMBER'S PARTICIPATION IN**
6 **OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE EXCUSED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.**
7

8 Holding elective municipal office is a public trust. The Anchorage Assembly adopted a
9 Code of Ethics to promote fair, honest, and impartial dealings with members of the
10 public, to ensure proper use of municipal resources, and to avoid conflicts of interest.
11

12 In the public interest, full disclosure is encouraged. Also in the public interest, full
13 participation by all members in tough decision-making is encouraged.
14

15 Elected officials are expected to vote on every issue unless precluded because of a
16 substantial financial or private interest in the matter before the elected, or otherwise
17 excused by majority vote of the elected body. For the Assembly, this is set out in rules
18 of procedure under AMC 2.30.070.
19

20 The Code of Ethics includes factors to assist the elected body in determining when
21 participation is precluded because of a substantial financial or private interest in the
22 matter before the Assembly. Some relationships may be too tangential to preclude
23 participation, and not easily quantified in terms of dollars or financial interest. Public
24 disclosure of these tangential work and family relationships is encouraged. Members
25 are elected to participate in the tough decision-making of the public body and the use of
26 tangential relationships to avoid making a tough decision is not supported in code. Only
27 the elected body can excuse participation.
28

29 The purpose of AO 2008-78 is to clarify the discretion of the elected body, while at the
30 same time continuing to encourage disclosure, in the area of tangential relationships.
31 Under AO 2008-78, participation by a member after disclosure remains a decision of the
32 body, and cannot be decided by the individual member making the disclosure.
33

34 Respectfully submitted:

35
36 Sheila Selkregg
37 Assembly Member, Section 5