

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2024-278

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ADOPTING ANCHORAGE'S**
2 **ALCOHOL TAX STRATEGIC PLAN**
3

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5 **WHEREAS**, in April 2020, Anchorage voters approved the creation of a sales tax on
6 alcoholic beverages to address some of Anchorage's most complex and pressing
7 problems; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, after payment of administrative costs, revenue must be dedicated to
10 funding for police, related criminal justice personnel, and first responders; funding to
11 combat and address child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence; and funding
12 for substance misuse treatment, prevention programs, detoxification or long-term
13 addiction recovery facilities, mental and behavioral health programs, and resources to
14 prevent and address Anchorage's homelessness crisis; and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, in the first four years of the alcohol tax, revenues have funded many
17 valuable and successful programs, such as the Mobile Crisis Team, the Early Literacy
18 Librarian, homeless shelters and outreach operations, and evidenced-based grants to
19 early childhood education and violence prevention programs; and,
20

21 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, 70% of alcohol tax revenue was spent on addressing
22 homelessness, bringing about the question of whether alcohol tax funds were being
23 adequately dispersed among the three focus areas set forth in the Charter, and
24 whether there was an adequate balance between prevention and intervention
25 spending; and
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27 **WHEREAS**, in the 2023 operating budget, the Anchorage Assembly funded the
28 creation of a strategic plan for alcohol tax spending to help the Municipality make
29 strategic funding decisions and set metrics for success for future spending; and
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31 **WHEREAS**, a steering committee made up of Assembly members, nonprofit
32 representatives, and community members with lived experience worked between
33 September 2023 and June 2024 to gather community input, test ideas and develop a
34 strategic plan for alcohol tax revenue; and
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36 **WHEREAS**, steering committee members gathered input at seven large community
37 events; held ten focus groups with service providers, alcohol industry representatives,
38 municipal finance and program staff, and youth with homelessness lived experiences;
39 gathered over 800 responses to an online survey; and conducted a formal telephone
40 survey with a sample size of 722 Anchorage adults; and
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42 **WHEREAS**, the work of the steering committee resulted in the Roadmap for Safety
43 and Wellbeing: Anchorage's Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan; and
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45 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Plan is to set a community vision, mission and values
46 for Alcohol Tax investments, inform budgeting and disbursing each year's Alcohol Tax

1 investments, ensure community input, transparency, and efficient use of the funds,
2 and make investments that address near-term issues and increase long-term safety
3 and wellbeing; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, the Plan was shared with the Anchorage Assembly at worksessions on
6 May 10 and July 26 and as a topic of three Rules Committee meetings, where
7 Assembly Members provided feedback and made edits to the Plan; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, Assembly Member feedback was incorporated into the Plan and resulted
10 in a final four page Policy Guidance for Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax and the Roadmap for
11 Safety and Wellbeing: Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan, now, therefore,
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13 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

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15 **Section 1.** To adopt the Policy Guidance for Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax and the
16 Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan as guiding documents to inform future
17 spending decisions for alcohol tax revenues.
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19 **Section 2.** Adoption of the Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan does not bind this or future
20 Assembly bodies to specific spending decisions, but can serve as a reference and
21 discussion guide for municipal staff and Assembly Members when making decisions
22 on alcohol tax spending.
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24 **Section 3.** Led by a point person assigned by the Mayor, the Policy Guidance
25 document should be reviewed and updated annually and used by the Administration
26 and Assembly as a discussion guide when setting priorities for the upcoming budget
27 cycle, and the Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan can be used as a reference for staff and
28 Assembly Members who wish to dive deeper into specific strategies and measures of
29 success.
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31 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and
32 approval by the Assembly.
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34 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of
35 _____, 2024.
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39 Chair _____

40 ATTEST:

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44 _____
45 Municipal Clerk
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- 48 Exhibit 1: Policy Guidance for Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax
49 Exhibit 2: Roadmap for Safety and Wellbeing: Anchorage’s Alcohol Tax Strategic Plan
50 Exhibit 3: Alcohol Tax Spending Tracker, 2021-2024