

SUNSET AUDIT REPORT

2016-S6

Municipal Women's Commission

Department of Health and Human Services

August 12, 2016

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Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Internal Audit Department

August 12, 2016

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Assembly:

I am pleased to present **Sunset Audit Report 2016-S6, Municipal Women's Commission, Department of Health and Human Services**, for your review. A brief summary of the report is presented below.

In accordance with Assembly Ordinance Number 2011-64(S-1), Section 14, we have performed a sunset audit of the Municipal Women's Commission. The objective of this audit was to provide information to the Mayor and Assembly to assist them in determining if the Municipal Women's Commission should be reauthorized. Our audit included a review of meeting minutes, resolutions and agendas, and member authorization and participation.

Based on our review of meeting minutes, resolutions, and attendance records, we recommend that the Municipal Women's Commission be reauthorized.

The Municipal Women's Commission will sunset on October 14, 2016, unless reauthorized by the Assembly.

Michael Chadwick, CICA
Acting Director, Internal Audit



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Internal Audit Department

August 12, 2016

**Sunset Audit Report 2016-S6
Municipal Women's Commission
Department of Health and Human Services**

Introduction. We have performed a sunset audit of the Municipal Women's Commission (Commission) as required by Assembly Ordinance Number 2011-64(S-1), Section 14 which states:

"The Municipal Clerk shall notify the Assembly and the Mayor by assembly memorandum at least 120 days prior to the sunset of any board or commission, and an ordinance for reauthorization shall be introduced through the Assembly Chair with the assembly memorandum. The assembly memorandum shall include direction to the Office of Internal Audit to audit the board or commission under Anchorage Municipal Code section 3.20.110 D.3. and 4. The Office of Internal Audit shall report its findings to the Mayor and Assembly at least 60 days, prior to sunset, prior to vote by the Assembly on reauthorization."

Objective and Scope. The objective of this audit was to provide information to the Mayor and Assembly to assist them in determining if the Commission should be reauthorized. Our audit included a review of meeting minutes, Commission resolutions and agendas, and Commission member authorization and participation.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, except for the requirement of an external quality control review, and accordingly, included tests of accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. The audit was performed during the period of June through July 2016.

Overall Evaluation. Based on our review of meeting minutes, resolutions, and attendance records, we recommend that the Municipal Women's Commission be reauthorized.

SUNSET FACTORS

The following factors were used in our evaluation and are presented for information to the Mayor and Assembly:

1. **Name of Commission.**

Municipal Women's Commission

2. **Sunset Date.**

October 14, 2016

3. **The purpose and goal of the Commission.**

Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 4.60.210, Municipal women's commission, states that the Commission is "... to advise the mayor and assembly on matters pertaining to the status of women. The commission shall be particularly concerned with improving opportunities for women in the community.

The mayor shall designate an executive secretary and advisor to the commission.

The commission shall:

- A. Act as a clearing house and coordinating body for information relating to the status of women.*
- B. Disseminate results of research and other information on women's issues.*
- C. Analyze and set priorities for women's needs at the local level.*

- D. Recommend legislative and administrative action on women's issues.
- E. Encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles.
- F. Act as a liaison between the state women's commission and local women.”

4. **Have Commission members been appointed?**

AMC 4.60.210 states “There is established a municipal women's commission consisting of nine members”

Audit Finding. Currently, the Commission is staffed with eight of the required nine members.

<u>Commission Member</u>	<u>Most Recent Assembly Confirmation</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Tiffany Hall	3-25-14	10-14-16
Gillian Dezzutto	8-5-14	10-14-17
Geran Tarr	8-5-14	10-14-17
Aimee Chauvot	6-9-15	10-14-17
Cara Durr	10-27-15	10-14-18
Danielle Myren	10-27-15	10-14-18
Austin Quinn-Davidson	10-27-15	10-14-18
Anita Halterman	12-22-15	10-14-17
Vacant		

Source: Assembly Memorandums

5. **Are the terms of the Commission members current?**

AMC 4.05.040, Terms, states “Except as otherwise specified in this Code, the regular term of each member of a board or commission is three years commencing on October 15 of the

year in which appointed and ending three years thereafter on October 14, provided however, to avoid a vacancy until new appointments can be made and confirmed, an appointed member's term is extended until a new appointment is confirmed or a maximum of 120 days which ever occurs first. The terms of initial or subsequent appointments to a board or commission shall be staggered so that, as nearly as possible, a pro rata number of its members shall be appointed each year of the established regular term of office."

Audit Finding. The terms for the eight Commission members are current.

6. Are positions deemed vacant after the maximum number of absences?

AMC 4.05.060.A, Attendance requirements; vacancies, states ". . . a vacancy shall occur if a member during any 12-month period while in office:

- 1. Is absent from three regular meetings without excuse;*
- 2. Is absent from:*
 - a. six regular meetings; or*
 - b. eight regular meetings for members of the planning and zoning commission, platting board, or zoning board of examiners and appeals; or*
- 3. Fails to attend a two-thirds majority of the regular meetings."*

Audit Finding. No members were absent from three regular meetings without an excuse within any 12-month period.

No members were absent from six regular meetings within any 12-month period.

One member failed to attend two thirds of the regular meetings within any 12-month period. This member has not been removed from the Commission.

7. **Does the Commission meet regularly?**

AMC 4.05.090, Meetings, states "A board or commission shall hold regular monthly meetings at such time and place as may from time to time be designated by the board or commission, but meetings need not be held if no business is pending. Boards and commissions shall advise the public of their meeting schedules, or publicly advertise their meetings where necessitated by statutory requirements. The chairman of a board or commission, or the municipal employee who is designated as an ex officio member of the board or commission pursuant to section 4.05.140, or a majority of the board or commission, may call a special meeting of the board or commission. Meetings of all boards and commissions shall be open to the public, except for an executive session, from which the public may be excluded."

Audit Finding. From January 2015 through June 2016, the Commission met 17 times. Meetings are publicly announced on the Boards and Commissions Events' website and the Municipality's Public Notices website. In addition, meetings are announced on the Commission's website and posted at the Department of Health and Human Services' building.

8. **Are minutes taken and published?**

AMC 4.05.130, Reports, minutes and public hearing records, states "A board or commission shall keep minutes of the board or commission proceedings, and such minutes shall record the vote of each member physically present upon every question formally presented to the board or commissions for its consideration. The minutes shall be maintained in the custody of the municipal agency which supplies staff support to the board or commission and shall be a public record, open to inspection by any person."

Audit Finding. Commission minutes were taken at each Commission meeting. Department of Health and Human Services staff keeps a copy available for the public. In addition, Commission minutes are available on the Commission's web site.

9. **Do meetings have action items or other business?**

AMC 4.60.210 states that the Commission is ". . . to advise the mayor and assembly on matters pertaining to the status of women. The commission shall be particularly concerned with improving opportunities for women in the community.

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The commission shall:

- A. Act as a clearing house and coordinating body for information relating to the status of women.*
- B. Disseminate results of research and other information on women's issues.*
- C. Analyze and set priorities for women's needs at the local level.*
- D. Recommend legislative and administrative action on women's issues.*
- E. Encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles.*
- F. Act as a liaison between the state women's commission and local women."*

Audit Finding. In 2015, the Commission provided an annual report to the Mayor. In addition, in the fall of 2014, the Commission facilitated a community forum on opportunities and challenges within the foster care system and, in 2015, provided a report to the Mayor. Moreover, the Commission expressed their support for the Alaska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Intervention Program. Finally, the Commission sent letters to the Governor of the State of Alaska and Alaska State Legislators regarding the Commission's thoughts on legislative issues.