

Anchorage Assembly Members

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Kevin Cross · Robin Dern · Kameron Perez-Verdia · Pete Petersen · Felix Rivera
Austin Quinn-Davidson · Randy Sulte · Joey Sweet · Daniel Volland · Meg Zaletel



2023 PROGRESS REPORT

2022 Accomplishments continued

Quality of Life

- Funded a **\$1.5M increase for snow hauling and plowing** for 2023
- Invested in a **Fish Creek** daylighting study and supported the **Eklutna River** restoration
- Launched a community-supported **Assembly Equity Committee**
- Created a **Safe Routes to Schools Working Group** in partnership with Anchorage School District
- Funded an **Anchorage School District budget study** to help the Anchorage School Board in light of the current state education funding crisis
- Launched Anchorage Recovery, a report of **federal pandemic relief funds**
- Increased **annual funding of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center**
- Funded a strategic planning process that **ensures community input, transparency, and efficient allocation of alcohol tax funds** and a program to help organizations identify and apply for alcohol tax grants
- Funded grants for **early education and child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence prevention programs** through the alcohol tax
- Furthered the process for **creating new cemeteries** in Eagle River and Girdwood
- Assisted constituents and community councils navigate drainage, permitting, traffic calming and other neighborhood issues
- Developed a ballot proposition to **increase the exemption for property tax** from \$50K to \$75K

Infrastructure

- Funded **Sullivan Arena repairs and additional security and clean-up** in the neighborhood surrounding the Sullivan while it is used as an emergency shelter
- Held a presentation from HDR on **options for grants through the federal infrastructure bill**; engaged Alaska Municipal League to provide regular reports to MOA on open infrastructure grant opportunities
- Approved a significant **Parks bond that was approved by voters**

Communications

- Completed a **fair and balanced reapportionment of Assembly district boundaries**
- Made significant advances in communications to the public on Assembly business: **launched monthly e-newsletter, renovated the website** with a commitment to timely posting of worksession and meeting documents
- Conducted the **annual Title 28 update** of election code and updated the Observer Handbook

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Housing & Homelessness

- Funded **\$39.5M in investments in affordable housing** through alcohol tax & federal relief funds
- Continued to fulfill the goals of Anchored Home – allocated alcohol tax and federal relief funds to **open a Complex Care shelter, open workforce and supportive housing at the Guest House**, convert several hotels into housing, and fund outreach and operations to support existing adult, youth and family shelters; maintained a focus on housing in the municipality's homelessness response
- **Launched an Emergency Shelter Task Force**, which created a comprehensive plan for identifying and funding emergency shelter needs in the winter of 2022-23 and beyond
- Created a **section on the Assembly website focused on homelessness** with the municipal history of actions on homelessness and information on Navigation Center and Anchored Home

Public Safety

- Kept the **Mobile Crisis Team at AFD in line with community wishes**; provided funding and worked with unions to enable 24/7 service and coordination of AFD Mobile Crisis Team and APD Mobile Intervention Team in 2023
- Continued **funding of wildfire mitigation/beetle-kill tree removal program**
- Funded **implicit bias training** and a **targeted recruitment program** for Police Department
- Funded **new emergency equipment in Chugiak-Eagle River and Girdwood** through the new Supplemental Emergency Medical Transport (SEMT) revenue funds
- Passed an ordinance to **increase fines for muffler/noise violations**
- Maintained funding for the Anchorage School District **School Resource Officers**

Economic Development

- Helped **secure \$200M for the Port of Alaska** from state legislature; continued monitoring of the Port modernization program
- Distributed **\$51M in federal COVID relief funds focusing on economic resilience**, increasing our competitiveness as a destination city, and making all parts of our city vibrant and welcoming
- Closely **monitored FEMA earthquake and COVID reimbursements** and helped the Finance department develop monthly FEMA reimbursement status reports
- Helped **streamline and improve processes for homebuilders** through revisions of Title 21 land use and Title 23 building codes
- **Encouraged housing development**: eliminated parking minimums, developed Assembly housing priorities, updated code to encourage Accessory Dwelling Units



2023 PRIORITIES

Housing Initiative

set a long-term housing vision, streamline codes & processes, spur innovative attainable housing

Port of Alaska Modernization

support rapid timeline that launches Phase II construction by summer 2024

Monitor MOA Financial Health

build reserve funds and recover FEMA reimbursements

Public Health & Safety

fund public safety & mental health services; support Crisis Now model

Assembly Business

conduct the business of the city with an increasingly open, accessible and transparent process

2023 GOALS

Economic Development

- **Stimulate economic development:** incentivize new businesses and entrepreneurship, streamline outdoor seating alcohol licensing, expand tax abatement and Reinvestment Focus Areas (RFAs) citywide, address workforce issues, support MOA infrastructure grants, support the work of the Roadmap to a Vital and Safe Anchorage
- **Identify and address barriers in municipal processes:** require process flow charts in AOs, create Navigator Program for building permits, rewrite Title 7 to clean up spending and contracting procedures
- **Build Municipality's reserve and 181 building funds** & ensure **recovery of FEMA reimbursements**
- Shift to **two-year cycle for MOA marijuana licenses** and align with state cycle
- Leverage MOA resources for matching grants to **catalyze long-lasting community investment**
- Pursue options for **Assembly to support MOA departments to secure federal grants**

Homelessness

Continue to fulfill the municipality's role in the **Anchored Home plan:**

- **Participate in Anchored Home update:** maintain focus on housing as the solution to homelessness and data-driven decision-making
- **Work with partners to fund projects consistent with Anchored Home plan;** promote community engagement with the work
- **Close the Sullivan Arena mass care shelter once suitable alternatives are developed;** successfully demobilize the emergency shelter plan

Housing

Make major advances in **Housing Development:**

- **Complete projects:** 3rd party inspection code changes; HLB and Real Estate land disposals
- **Host a Housing Summit** and collect community input to **develop a long-term housing vision**
- **Introduce new projects:** expedite permitting during peak season, review minimum lot sizes, expand roles of community land trusts, create catalog of pre-approved plans, reclassify three & fourplexes as residential

Public Safety

- Expand **focus on mental and behavioral health issues:** continue investment in Mobile Crisis Team and Crisis Now framework by partnering with agencies to establish stabilization centers and a crisis call center
- Continue to **assist APD and AFD Academies** with recruitment and retention with a focus on diversifying the workforce
- Continue to **educate the community on public safety trends** through reports at the Public Safety Committee meetings; share the reports more widely with the community
- Continue **wildfire mitigation and response** efforts; work with Congressional delegation to secure federal funds
- **Research hemp regulations**

Assembly Business

- **Elevate public discourse by being accessible, transparent and civil**
- **Serve as stewards** of municipal budget, elections, charter and code; ensure co-equal branches of local government; conduct thorough oversight of municipal business
- **Join people together** to solve local programs
- **Help residents engage in local government** through communication and outreach
- **Committee updates: create Transportation committee; add HLB & snow removal to Enterprise & Utilities; add Purchasing to Budget & Finance; schedule AKDOT briefings**
- Monitor **community council boundary update**
- **Update process to approve bond propositions** earlier in the year

Quality of Life

- Hold State of Alaska accountable to **increase Base Student Allocation** and address inequities in Anchorage funding formula
- Invest in housing, parks and trails to **make sure we have a city where people want to live, work and play**
- **Support development of trail corridors** - connect existing trails; carry out Project Anchorage task force recommendations
- **Placemaking on urban trails** - light, quick, cheap pilot projects and pop-ups
- **Continue investment in community mental health,** including mobile intervention teams
- Continue to provide funding for **trail connectivity** muni-wide and **encourage greater levels of walkability**

Infrastructure & Transportation

- **Maximize federal infrastructure funding** for municipal projects
- Continue advocacy for **Port renovation funds**
- **Chugach State Park investments:** road access & trail upgrades, trailhead facilities
- Support a **long-range transportation plan**
- Complete an **inventory of easements**
- Create **Assembly Transportation committee**
- Identify and support **district priorities for transportation** projects and AMATS funding
- **Secure local control of 5th & 6th Avenues**
- **Prioritize pedestrian safety and access** in the legislative program
- Continue **Safe Routes to Schools** project with ASD; advocate for raised crosswalks at priority crossing zones