

## Anchorage Assembly Members

Suzanne La France, Chair · Christopher Constant, Vice-Chair

Jamie Allard · Forrest Dunbar · Crystal Kennedy · Kameron Perez-Verdia · Pete Petersen  
Felix Rivera · Austin Quinn-Davidson · John Weddleton · Meg Zaletel



# 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

**DRAFT - 1/7/21**

## 2021 Accomplishments

### Communications

- Established a **formal government-to-government relationship with the Native Village of Eklutna** and worked with Eklutna, Inc. to increase collaboration
- Launched **Reapportionment to update election district boundaries** after the 2020 U.S. Census
- Conducted the **annual review and update of Title 28 election code** and updated the election observer handbook
- **Created more opportunities for public engagement** in Assembly processes, such as phone virtual committee meetings, testimony and a form for written testimony
- Launched Public Portal to Assembly Documents to **create ease of access to Assembly records**
- **Strengthened Assembly procedures and improved communications**, including hiring the Legislative Liaison position

### Quality of Life

- Assembly Members **helped constituents and community councils navigate drainage, permits, traffic calming** and other neighborhood issues
- Completed **site selection for a Chugiak-Eagle River cemetery**
- **Spearheaded equity and fairness initiatives**: created Chief Equity Officer, created an equity Assembly committee, addressed laws and processes that perpetuate discrimination, and participated in racial equity dialogs

### Infrastructure

- Supported **bonds that led to the renovation of critical roads, parks and facilities**, such as Gruening Middle School and Eagle River Elementary School after the earthquake, and senior center and library improvements
- AWWU **opened a new water pump station** for Chugiak-Eagle River
- Exempted Chugiak-Eagle River and Girdwood from the new Storm Drainage Utility **to save residents from double-payment for storm drainage services**
- Added **popular and well-used parks** to the 2022 Parks and Recreation bond



### Economic Development

- Planned and quickly **distributed federal economic recovery aid** funds, including rental and mortgage relief, small business assistance, childcare aid, and arts and culture grants
- Significantly **advanced the Port of Alaska upgrades**: aligned diverse interests to create a plan, approved revenue bonds to leverage federal and state funds, and broke ground on Petroleum Cement Terminal upgrade (to be completed in summer 2022)
- Finalized the sale of Municipal Light & Power, creating a trust fund to support the **long-term stability of the Municipality's finances**
- Navigated the Municipality's finances through years of reductions in state funding
- Helped **streamline and improve processes for homebuilders**: electronic plan submittal form led to more permits issued with less wait time for builders, added video inspection of roofs, and addressed one of the challenges with sprinkler system requirements for single family dwellings

### Public Safety

- **Responded to the pandemic**: passed health and safety measures and delivered financial aid to community members and businesses
- **Preserved alcohol tax funds for a broad range of community-supported preventative** and day-to-day programs, such as domestic violence prevention grants and victims' support
- Helped establish the *Crisis Now* crisis response system and **established the Mobile Crisis Team** through the alcohol tax
- Approved a proposition for **Anchorage Police Department in-car and body-worn cameras**, which was passed by the Anchorage voters
- Added a **fourth Anchorage Police Department officer to Chugiak-Eagle River**
- **Maintained staffing and funding levels for Anchorage Police**, which kept crime down

### Homelessness

- Continued progress on a **comprehensive system to address homelessness**: welcomed new partners, established a collaboration with the Mayor, secured investments from philanthropy and business, and increased clarity on the *Anchored Home* plan to end homelessness, and funded the first portion of the plan
- Invested in United Way's *Home for Good* program to find **supportive housing for 150 of Anchorage's most visible and vulnerable homeless residents**
- Used federal COVID aid funds to establish a mass care shelter, **provide rental and mortgage relief, and utilities assistance**



# Priorities

Example goes here

Example goes here

Example goes here

Example goes here

Example goes here

## 2022 Goals

### Economic Development

- **Stimulate economic revitalization:** incentivize new businesses, address workforce issues, support arts and culture recovery, and spur development and job creation through bonds, federal infrastructure projects and tax abatement
- Secure state and federal **funding for the Port of Alaska** upgrades
- **Identify and address barriers in municipal processes:** tax abatement, permits, fire code, bear carts
- **Build the Municipality's reserve funds**
- Distribute the 2022 **federal pandemic recovery funds**
- Create a **Chugiak-Eagle River Planning and Zoning Board**
- Continue **revitalization of Eagle River downtown** and promote economic development in the region
- Work through **Title 23 building code revisions**
- Create incentives for **municipal departments to reduce annual spending** by allowing carry over to the next budget year and update **financial thresholds for items that come before the Assembly**

### Homelessness

- **Continue to fulfill the goals of the housing and homelessness plan:** work with nonprofit partners and funders to fund and complete the projects in the plan; bring the community along in support of the plan through outreach and communications
- Make **investments in affordable housing**, including general infrastructure investments, tax abatement and code changes that increase density and spur private development
- Create a **one-stop-shop for homelessness services**
- **Close the Sullivan Arena mass care shelter** once suitable alternatives are developed

### Communications

- Complete a **fair and balanced municipal reapportionment** of election boundaries
- Continue to **make the Assembly more transparent and accessible:** highlight accomplishments and changes, add public video access for committee meetings, and ensure fairness and accessibility of Assembly processes
- Launch **Assembly Navigators** to help the public participate in Assembly meetings
- Continue to **simplify Assembly website** to increase access information and participation
- Launch a **monthly e-newsletter**
- Conduct **annual Title 28 election code review**
- *Long-term:* invest in digital tools to automate info delivery and public participation access

### Public Safety

- Expand **focus on mental and behavioral health issues:** continue investment in Mobile Crisis Team and *Crisis Now* framework by creating stabilization centers and establishing a crisis call center; engage the **Mobile Crisis Team in Chugiak-Eagle River** issues
- Continue to **monitor pandemic impacts and pass health and safety measures** as needed
- Address **Glenn Highway safety responses** to reduce burden on Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department
- Continue to **investigate public fears about safety** in our community, including narrowing in on crime statistics that give the full story and relating that story to the public
- Work with the Anchorage School District on a **review of the School Resource Officers** program

### Quality of Life

- **Work with communities and constituents on neighborhood issues**, such as traffic calming, permits, and drainage
- Support schools in **addressing the learning loss from the pandemic**
- Promote and continue to invest in **successes made possible by federal recovery funds**
- Continue to **advance equity initiatives** and launch the Assembly Equity Committee
- Work with the Native Village of Eklutna **to push for Eklutna River restoration as priority issue** for the new Chugach Electric CEO
- *Long-term:* create a **Chugiak-Eagle River Community Center** and establish a **hospital in Eagle River**

### Infrastructure

- **Maximize obtainment of federal infrastructure funds** for municipal projects
- **Invest in roads, trails, facilities and parks** through bonds and other funding opportunities to attract businesses and employees
- Utilize new AMATS scoring system to **promote pedestrian, bike and trail improvements and encourage density**
- Reopen Sullivan Arena as a sporting and event venue