

# Anchorage Assembly Members

Suzanne LaFrance, Chair • Christopher Constant, Vice-Chair

Jamie Allard • Kevin Cross • Forrest Dunbar • Kameron Perez-Verdia • Pete Petersen  
Felix Rivera • Austin Quinn-Davidson • Randy Sulte • Daniel Volland • Meg Zaletel



# 2023 PROGRESS REPORT

## 2022 Accomplishments continued

### Quality of Life

- Funded a **\$1.5M increase for snow hauling and plowing** in 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 relief funds helping Anchorage recover** from the pandemic
- 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

### 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 **Park 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

# DRAFT

## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Housing & Homelessness

- Funded **\$39.5M in investments in affordable housing** through alcohol tax and federal relief funds
- Continued to fulfill the goals of Anchored Home – through the alcohol tax and federal relief funds, **opened a Complex Care shelter** and **workforce and supportive housing at the Guest House**; funded the conversion of several hotels into housing; funded outreach and operations to support existing adult, youth and family shelters; and maintained a focus on housing with the municipal 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 comprehensive Navigation Center and Anchored Home information

### Public Safety

- Kept the **Mobile Crisis Team within the Fire Department in line with community wishes**; provided funding and worked with unions to enable 24/7 service and coordination of the fire department's Mobile Crisis Team and the police department's 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 Anchorage 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
- **Eliminated parking minimums** to spur development and make better use of land
- Closely **monitored FEMA earthquake and COVID reimbursements** and helped the Finance department develop status reports
- Helped **streamline and improve processes for homebuilders** through revisions of Title 21 land use and Title 23 building codes



# 2023 PRIORITIES

## Housing Initiative

set a long-term housing vision, streamline codes and processes, and 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 licensing to allow outdoor seating at bars and restaurants, expand tax abatement and 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 flow chart of processes in AOs, fund a Navigator Program for building permits, rewrite Title 7 to address MPA spending and contracting loopholes
- **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

# DRAFT

## Housing & Homelessness

- Continue **to fulfill the municipality's role in the Anchored Home plan:** participate in the plan update, maintain a focus on housing as the solution to homelessness, work with community partners to fund projects, continue focus on data-driven decision-making, and promote community engagement with the work; create a one-stop-shop for homelessness services; close the Sullivan Arena mass care shelter once suitable alternatives are developed; successfully demobilize the emergency shelter plan
- Make major advances in **Housing Development:** Complete ADU and 3rd party inspection code changes; Holtan Hills disposal; host a Housing Summit and collect relevant community data to develop a community-driven long-term housing vision

## 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 administrative 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 creating hemp regulations

## Assembly Business

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

## Quality of Life

- Hold State of Alaska accountable to increase Base Student Allocation and address inequities in Anchorage funding formula
- - TBD -

## Infrastructure

- **Maximize federal infrastructure funding** for municipal projects
- - TBD -