



Municipality of Anchorage
P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • 825 "L" Street • <http://www.muni.org>

Anchorage Women's Commission



AWC Meeting 8/12/2021 5:30 – 7:00 pm Microsoft Teams online meeting

Commissioners Present: Valerie Chadwick, Monica Elkinton (Co-chair), Sheri Lisenbee, Andria Cross (AHD host), Joan Ryan (Chair), Leslie Vines, Margaret Duggan, Kami Hutchings, Clifford Armstrong III (Guest Mayor's Office)

I. Call to Order

- Quorum established & Call to Order at 5:35 pm

II. Introductions: Clifford Armstrong III – Office of Equity and Justice

III. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda (Co-chair Elkinton)
- 2nd to approve (Commissioner Lisenbee)

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve April 2021 minutes (Chair Ryan)
- Motion to second (Co-chair Elkinton)

V. Old Business

- End of Year Letter (Chair Ryan)
 - Sent for final review by Commissioners, then to Mayor's Office Chief of Staff.
- Guest: Clifford Armstrong III Office of Equity and Justice
 - Started this position last April. Role: to run a few programs related to diversity & equity, equity reviews in MOA, review of affirmative action, language access, and Title 6.

VI. Public Comments

- No public comments at this time.

VII. New Business

- Vote to change Anchorage Women's Commission meeting day/times:

- All in favor of changing meeting time to: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm. (Vote: 6 Yes / 0 No)
- Alcohol Tax Update
 - (Chair Ryan) There is group from the Anchorage Health Department (AHD) (Nicole Lebo) that is working on MOA Alcohol Tax funds. A PowerPoint presentation created by the AHD was shown and demonstrated the various funding pathways such as: sexual assault, domestic violence, early childhood education and development. Noted that it would be beneficial to create an outreach campaign that informs the public on how this tax money will be spent and benefit the community.
- Rape Kit Reform Update
 - (Chair Ryan) Two new efforts in Alaska regarding Rape Kit processing:
 - 1. New Tracking system which allows victims to track progress of kit testing status. This will apply to the backlog of kits that still need to be tested by the crime lab.
 - 2. New initiative that enforces the AK law which requires that DNA samples must be collected for certain crimes. This applies to the hundreds of samples that were previously missed at the time of collection. May require seeking parties of interest from old crimes to obtain DNA samples for evidence.
- Paid Parental Leave
 - (Chair Ryan) Discussion regarding changes since COVID and how to keep new parents in the workforce while balancing the needs of being a parent. Former President Trump passed Paid Parental (Maternal) Leave for Federal workers. There is an option to obtain temporary disability insurance (approximately \$30 per month) which may cover up to 60% of wages while on leave. AWC could present this information to the Assembly to demonstrate the importance of paid parental leave. (Co-chair Elkinton) Municipality of Anchorage employees currently have access to this type of benefit. (Commissioner Chadwick) Concern with a public entity promoting a private company and with the ability of small businesses to participate or offer to employees. Discussed the benefit of educational campaign to inform the public of the process for using these benefits to empower families.
- Events
 - AWC to post information (website / social media) regarding MOA vaccination sites.

VIII. Adjournment, 6:27 pm

- Motion to adjourn (Co-chair Elkinton)
- 2nd to adjourn (Commissioner Duggan)

IX. Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 pm