Approved: (date) Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Reading for:

**ANCHORAGE YOUTH ADVISORY COMISSION**

**YAC-R No. 2022-2**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION TO AMEND ANCHORAGE CHARTER ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.01 TO CHANGE FROM AT LARGE SCHOOL BOARD SEAT ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SEAT ELECTIONS.**

**WHEREAS,** the United States was founded on the democratic principles of representation and a federalist system of government in which local governments will serve as the primary outlet for citizen participation.

**WHEREAS,** the Anchorage Charter states that one of the main goals of the city’s government is “to secure maximum local control of local affairs.”

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Charter Article IV found that the goal of “maximum local control of local affairs” would be best achieved through the voting of Anchorage Assembly members by district.

**WHEREAS,** by Anchorage Charter Article VI Section 6.01, the current school board elections are voted on “at-large from seats designated as seat A, seat B, seat C, seat D, seat E, seat F, and seat G.”

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage School District has increased by over 12,000 students since it was established in the 1970s.

**WHEREAS,** the Youth Advisory Commission holds that the ability for students to make personal connections with their district’s school board member is a valuable opportunity which will amplify the experiences and voices of the youth of Anchorage.

**WHEREAS,** the Youth Advisory Commission finds that the through this Anchorage Charter amendment parents will be able to converse with the school board member representing their district and school to have a direct mode of communication with the Anchorage School District.

**WHEREAS,** the Youth Advisory Commission concludes that through district elected seats, school board members will be able to develop deeper relationships with their schools to further advance the Anchorage School District’s understanding of the needs of individual schools and students.

**WHEREAS,** the Youth Advisory Commission strongly believes that this change will improve communication between the Anchorage community and the ASD administration, promote initiatives focused on specific schools and students, and foster a stronger relationship between the citizens of Anchorage and the Anchorage School District.

***Now, therefore by the Youth Advisory Commission, be it resolved:***

1. *The Assembly will allow public comment on YAC Resolution 2022-2 and follow the discussion with a vote on the resolution.*
2. *As YAC resolution 2022-2 is an amendment to the Anchorage Charter, if approved by a majority of the Assembly it will become an ordinance in accordance with Anchorage Charter Article XVIII Section 18.01 to be voted on by the Anchorage Assembly.*
3. *If passed by two-thirds of the Anchorage Assembly, the Charter Amendment will be placed on the next municipal election ballot to be voted on by the people.*