

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Anchorage Assembly Announces Thorough Public Process for Deliberation of COVID-19 Relief Dollars**

March 15, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Anchorage Assembly has released its plan for a thorough public process to determine the allocation of new COVID-19 relief dollars.

Last week, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill.

This COVID-19 relief bill allocates \$120 billion for city and county governments to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Although the amount is still unknown, the Municipality of Anchorage is expected to receive a considerable sum of dollars to continue our efforts to mitigate COVID-19.

The Municipality of Anchorage will be receiving this money in two tranches, with 50% of the dollars received within 60 days of the signing of the bill and the other 50% received 12 months later. Treasury will be releasing additional information in the coming weeks, both about the COVID-19 relief we are expecting as well as other tranches of dollars the MOA may be receiving.

As a reminder, the MOA received \$156 million last year through the CARES Act and a variety of programs were created to assist our community with those dollars, including small business relief, tourism relief, hospitality relief, rent and mortgage relief, and more.

Below is the process the Assembly will be engaging in beginning this Friday:

#### **Phase 1: Assess, Review, Public Dialogue, and Initial Allocations**

- Friday, March 19, 11:10 a.m. to 4 p.m., In-Person Worksession in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
  - o The Assembly will be reviewing assessments of previous programs.
  - o The Assembly will be reviewing the framework and priorities document adopted during the first round of COVID-19 stimulus in 2020.
  - o The Assembly will be meeting with various stakeholders – including program operators, business associations, and individual businesses – on major programs:
    - Small Business Relief
    - Tourism Relief
    - Nonprofit Relief
    - Community Institutions Relief

- Last, the Assembly will be discussing initial allocations of roughly 20 to 25% of the dollars to the Municipality of Anchorage (amount is yet unknown). We want to get a portion of the money out as fast as possible and this will allow us to give guidance to the administration.
- Tuesday, March 23, 5 p.m., Regular Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
  - Meeting to introduce the resolution with initial allocations and set it for a public hearing and vote for a Special Assembly Meeting on Thursday, March 25.
- Thursday, March 25, 6 p.m., Special Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
  - Public hearing and vote on resolution with initial allocation of 20 to 25% of the dollars to the MOA.

## **Phase 2: Plan, Public Dialogue, and Final Allocations**

### **DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON EVOLVING FEDERAL GUIDANCE**

- Friday, March 26, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., In-Person Worksession and Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
  - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Worksession to review federal guidance and begin discussion to determine allocations of remainder of funds.
  - 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Town Hall style discussion.
- Friday, April 9, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., In-Person Worksession and Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
  - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Second meeting to discuss and finalize allocations.
  - 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Town Hall style discussion.
- Tuesday, April 13, 5 p.m., Regular Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
  - Meeting to introduce the resolution or ordinance with final allocations.
- Friday, April 23, 12noon to 1 p.m., In-Person Worksession and Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
  - Review of resolution or ordinance with final allocations.
- Tuesday, April 27, 5 p.m., Regular Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
  - Public hearing and vote on resolution or ordinance with final allocations.

Individual Assembly Members / District Members are encouraged to organize District or Community Council dialogues in addition to the process outlined above.

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