WHEREAS, the Assembly finds that opportunities for youth engagement in local
government can be beneficial to the youth of Anchorage and to the community by bringing
ew perspectives on policy to ask tough questions, bring new energy, and have the future
at heart; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1995, with Assembly approval of AO 95-64, the Municipality of
Anchorage established a Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) by enacting a new section in
Title 4 of the Anchorage Municipal Code for the purpose of “advis[ing] the Mayor and
Assembly on issues, services and programs related to youth” AMC section 4.60.275; and

WHEREAS, while the membership and duties of the YAC were further amended through
the years, the YAC continued to be reestablished until October 2012, when it was
sunsetted, and then reestablished with Assembly approval of AO 2015-119 on November
10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature honored the reestablished YAC
and congratulated the new members with a formal citation issued March 26, 2016; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, 108 youths have served on the YAC, whose members have
brought forward many resolutions to the Assembly, hosted Teen City and other events to
engage more young people, advised on Youth Matter Grants in the community, and led Art
for Anchorage workshops at high schools, and through these activities provided a valuable
youth perspective to Assembly members and the community; and

WHEREAS, there is an Anchorage School District Student Advisory Board (SAB) which
allows for student advocacy on issues that impact students, and consists of three
delegates from each high school and two delegates from each middle school, which
among other functions, convenes to recommend a student representative to the
Anchorage School Board; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2017, the Assembly approved AO 2017-51(S), as
amended, which created a seat for a Youth Representative to the Anchorage Assembly,
nominated by the YAC, for the “purposes of youth engagement and education in civics”; and

WHEREAS, since 2017 there have been three Youth Representatives confirmed by the
Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a review of the implementation of the Assembly Youth Representative model has never been conducted by the Assembly or stakeholders to evaluate the model’s efficacy concerning youth engagement and civic education; and

WHEREAS, Assembly consideration of AO 2017-51(S) included a report, “Youth in Leadership: Review of Information of Youth Representation in Boards and Government, prepared by the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition dated August 1, 2017, which noted on page 11:

Recommendations from other cities and programs are vast but many tell the same story: youth cannot just be placed on a board and expected to perform, but they need support and structure to truly become a community representative for youth. Youth who are selected need mentors and training from experienced professionals. They need to feel like they are important and matter to their community. Giving youth the ability to be a leader in the community is a citywide effort, calling for collaboration between many different entities. In Anchorage, some stakeholders to engage in the crafting of a youth representative may be the Anchorage Assembly, Anchorage School District, University of Alaska, and other organizations.;

and

WHEREAS, AO 2017-51(S) did not embed the Youth Representative in a larger program of civic education, or establish a structure of support (“scaffolding”) or training for the Youth Representative, nor did it identify a funding mechanism for providing and sustaining support and training, or formalize the role of community stakeholders or provide guidance to the YAC for conducting the Youth Representative nomination process, though it directed the Chair to appoint the Youth Representative and the Assembly to confirm, without consideration of Assembly resources and without specifying a timeframe for appointment; and

WHEREAS the Assembly seeks to facilitate meaningful youth engagement in local government by involving stakeholders and members of the community to ensure that the Municipality’s Youth Representative model is structured to best meet the needs of the youth and the community while providing for a youth voice on the Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES

Section 1. To create a task force consisting of stakeholders of the community including but not limited to members from the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, Anchorage School District, the University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage Youth Court, Assembly, Mayor’s Office, past and/or present members of the MOA Youth Advisory Commission and former Assembly Youth Representatives for the purpose of:

a. Reviewing and providing an assessment of the Municipality’s Youth Representative model towards the goals of youth engagement and civic education.

b. Recommending changes to the current model to maximize inclusivity of youth participation.

c. Considering creation of a “Youth in Government” program, in which to embed the Youth Representative and provide support and training.
The task force members shall be appointed by the Assembly Chair, and the organizations named above may nominate persons for such appointment. The task force will select a Chair and Vice Chair to assist in coordinating the work. The task force may establish its own procedural rules, and in all matters of procedure not covered by those rules Roberts Rules of Order, as revised, will govern. The task force is not a subordinate unit of the Assembly. The task force shall first adopt a work plan and advise the Assembly Chair. The task force’s work has a targeted completion date of December 31, 2022.

Section 2. To fund the staffing reasonable and necessary for the task force and identify the Municipal office or department to provide such support.

Section 3. To fund, in an amount to be determined later, staffing for structured support and training for the Youth Representative and members of the YAC.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ____ day of ________________, 2022.

____________________________________
Chair

ATTEST:

____________________________________
Municipal Clerk