

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-XXX**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHING A**
2 **TASK FORCE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO REVIEW THE ASSEMBLY YOUTH**
3 **REPRESENTATIVE MODEL, RECOMMEND CHANGES, AND CONSIDER CREATING A**
4 **“YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT” PROGRAM TO SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND**
5 **CIVIC EDUCATION, PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE**
6 **ASSEMBLY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AND IDENTIFY FUNDING FOR TRAINING**
7 **AND STRUCTURED SUPPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AND**
8 **MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly finds that opportunities for youth engagement in local
11 government can be beneficial to the youth of Anchorage and to the community by bringing
12 new perspectives on policy to ask tough questions, bring new energy, and have the future
13 at heart; and

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

19
20 **WHEREAS**, while the membership and duties of the YAC were further amended through
21 the years, the YAC continued to be reestablished until October 2012, when it was
22 sunsetted, and then reestablished with Assembly approval of AO 2015-119 on November
23 10, 2015; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature honored the reestablished YAC
26 and congratulated the new members with a formal citation issued March 26, 2016; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, since 1995, 108 youths have served on the YAC, whose members have
29 brought forward many resolutions to the Assembly, hosted Teen City and other events to
30 engage more young people, advised on Youth Matter Grants in the community, and led Art
31 for Anchorage workshops at high schools, and through these activities provided a valuable
32 youth perspective to Assembly members and the community; and

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

39
40 **WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2017, the Assembly approved AO 2017-51(S), as
41 amended, which created a seat for a Youth Representative to the Anchorage Assembly,
42 nominated by the YAC, for the *“purposes of youth engagement and education in civics”*;
43 and

44
45 **WHEREAS**, since 2017 there have been three Youth Representatives confirmed by the

1 Assembly; and
2

3 **WHEREAS**, a review of the implementation of the Assembly Youth Representative model
4 has never been conducted by the Assembly or stakeholders to evaluate the model's
5 efficacy concerning youth engagement and civic education; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, Assembly consideration of AO 2017-51(S) included a report, "Youth in
8 Leadership: Review of Information of Youth Representation in Boards and Government,
9 prepared by the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition dated August 1, 2017, which
10 noted on page 11:

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

21 and

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

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

34
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES**
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37 **Section 1.** To create a task force consisting of stakeholders of the community including
38 but not limited to members from the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, Anchorage
39 School District, the University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage Youth Court, Assembly,
40 Mayor's Office, past and/or present members of the MOA Youth Advisory Commission and
41 former Assembly Youth Representatives for the purpose of:
42

- 43 a. Reviewing and providing an assessment of the Municipality's Youth Representative
44 model towards the goals of youth engagement and civic education.
45 b. Recommending changes to the current model to maximize inclusivity of youth
46 participation.
47 c. Considering creation of a "Youth in Government" program, in which to embed the
48 Youth Representative and provide support and training.

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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

