



# Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 • <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

## Anchorage Assembly Leadership

September 5, 2023

Mayor Dave Bronson  
632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 850  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[dave.bronson@anchorageak.gov](mailto:dave.bronson@anchorageak.gov)

Sent via email only

Re: Request for documents concerning the 2022 and 2023 regular elections

Dear Mayor Bronson:

As you know, the Ombudsman has recently published a report regarding his investigation into the circumstances surrounding an election complaint filed by election observer Sami Graham on April 11, 2023 and an internal policy statement created by your administration which was used as the basis of the complaint. As the elected leadership for, and long-serving members of, the Assembly, we take the Ombudsman's findings and recommendations very seriously. Per Article IV of the Anchorage Charter, the Anchorage Assembly serves as the judge of Anchorage Elections, and per Article XI the Assembly is charged with establishing the election procedures by ordinance. Bound by the charter, we have a duty to understand the circumstances described in the Municipal Ombudsman's investigation and, as appropriate, propose amendments to the code to protect future municipal elections from tampering. We know your Administration was given the opportunity to respond to the Ombudsman's report prior to its finalization, and we were pleased to see your stated desire to work with the Assembly to preserve the security of our elections as expressed through your Chief of Staff, Mario Bird.

That said, it has not been lost on us that, thus far, the only people to have been implicated in this matter, Ms. Graham and Mr. Dahl, were both your political appointees: the former having served as one of your first chiefs of staff, and the latter as your current IT Director since 2021. Nor has it been lost on us that the complaints filed by Ms. Graham regarding the 2023 regular election bear a striking resemblance to questions you posed in a records request letter to the Municipal Clerk on April 29, 2022 regarding the 2022 regular election. It is also worth noting that, when you sent this letter, you chose to Cc Mr. Dahl.

In questioning the legitimacy of the 2022 election, your letter cited the "widespread questions and concerns related to the voting process" your office purportedly received. Given your expressed commitment to "create and foster an environment of additional trust and integrity for future Municipal Elections" the Assembly Leadership hereby requests you produce the following documents as public records under Alaska Statute 40.25.110 and Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 3.90:

- Records of any communications to, from, or between current and former employees of your office discussing complaints or allegations of misconduct in either the 2022 or 2023 Regular Election; and

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- Records of any communications to, from, or between current or former employees of your office or any other current or former municipal employee and Ms. Sami Graham.

In conducting a search of electronic records we request you use the following parameters: Records between April 1, 2022 and May 1, 2023 containing any of the following keywords:

- “alaskansam@yahoo.com”
- “alaskangraham@yahoo.com”
- “election”
- “dominion”
- “overturn”
- “rigged”
- “Leung”
- “BallotTrax”
- “ballot”
- “thumb drive”
- “USB”

For the purposes of this request please construe the term “your office” broadly to include all those staff working directly for the Mayor, whether as contract employees or as municipal employees. It includes, but is not limited to, your chief of staff, municipal manager and their respective deputies and administrative staff.

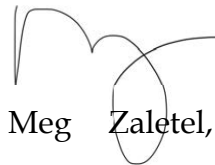
To the extent the Administration believes any information contained within these documents is privileged, please precisely redact the information you believe to be privileged, and denote the specific nature of the privilege being asserted, either on the document itself or on an accompanying redaction log. At a minimum the log must identify the sender, the recipient, and the subject of the communication over which a privilege is being asserted. This method of redaction is in keeping with both best legal practices and the spirit of the caselaw regarding privileged information.<sup>1</sup>

We request that you please provide any responsive records of correspondence to or from Ms. Graham or Mr. Dahl to us either physically or via email no later than 5:00p.m. Thursday, September 7, 2023 and the remainder of the requested records no later than 12:01p.m. Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

Sincerely,



Christopher Constant, Assembly Chair  
Chair



Meg Zaletel, Assembly Vice

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<sup>1</sup> See *Doe v. Alaska Superior Court, Third Judicial Dist.*, 721 P.2d 617, 626 (Alaska 1986).

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Cc: Anne Helzer–Municipal Attorney  
Kent Kohlhase – Municipal Manager  
Mario Bird – Chief of Staff  
Phillippe Brice – Acting IT Director  
Assembly members