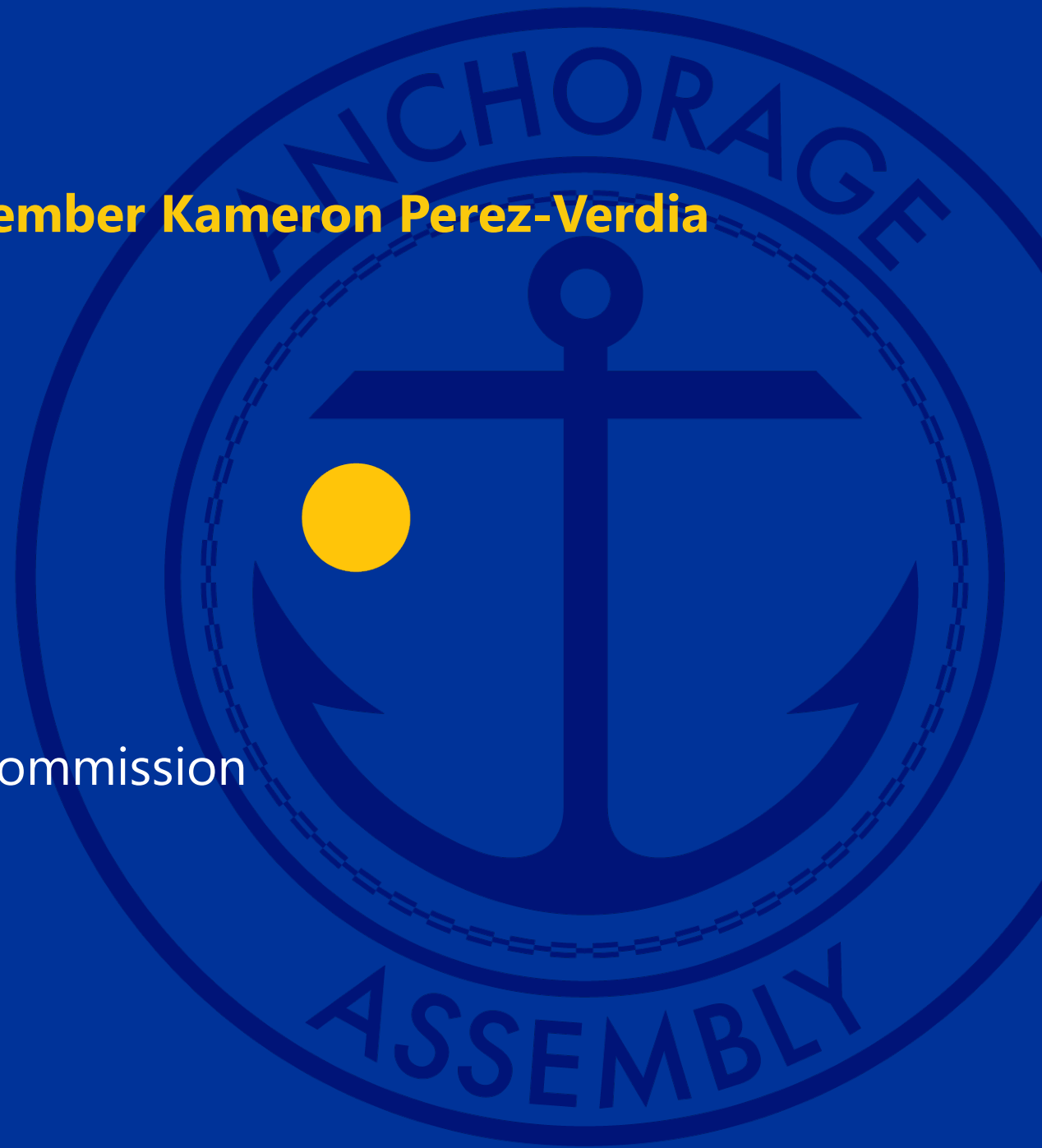


Assembly Chair Anna Brawley & Member Kameron Perez-Verdia

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

AO No. 2026-62 to establish a new commission
Public Hearing set for May 26

www.muni.org/assembly



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. **Brief Background & Context:** *How did we get here?*

- History of Public Safety Advisory Commission(s)
- Task Force to Reimagine PSAC (2025)

2. **Goals & Guiding Principles:**

What are we trying to accomplish?

3. **Overview of Proposed Ordinance**

4. **Q&A, Next Steps**



Background: Public Safety Advisory Commission

- **Public Safety Advisory Commission (“PSAC”)** established in 1995 (AO 1995-065(S)).
- *Purpose:* a forum for community input & advice on public safety matters. Its scope was debated: focus on law enforcement & crime, or also on fire, health, emergency response, etc.?
- PSAC existed in various forms for 25 years, with varied effectiveness, activities & staff support.
 - 3 members appointed in 2020 to focus on Missing & Murdered Indigenous People*; commission membership later turned over; not staffed consistently.
 - Community concerns: PSAC not representative of the community, purpose is unclear.
- 2023 sunset audit recommended temporary authorization & thorough review of its structure.
- In 2024, the Assembly **allowed the commission to sunset**. 3 members (Brawley, Perez-Verdia, Rivera) committed to an intentional, community-focused redesign process.
- In 2025, the Assembly approved a one-time appropriation and creation of a **Task Force to Reimagine the Public Safety Advisory Commission**.

* Article: <https://www.ktoo.org/2020/06/24/three-alaska-native-women-join-anchorage-public-safety-advisory-commission/>

Timeline of the Former PSAC

PSAC is established to act in an advisory role on public safety issues

1995

2020

Internal Audit suggests a worksession and review of the purpose of this commission

2023

Task Force established to explore the viability of bringing back the PSAC

2024

2025

The Muni's Internal Audit team recommends a temporary reauthorization of the commission

Assembly agrees to terminate the commission

Background: Task Force to Reimagine PSAC

Task Force Process

- Assembly established a Task Force, AR 2025-111
- Task Force met over the course of five months, from June-November 2025. Assembly and public were given regular updates on its work.
- Meetings, workshops, panels, surveys, and direct engagement.
- Final report published December 2025, **AIM 249-2025(A)**

Who served on Task Force?

- Convened by Chair of the Public Health & Safety Committee
- Broad array of stakeholder organizations including NAACP, Native Movement, VOA Alaska, AKPIRG, AWAIC, ACJ, Mental Health Trust Authority
- Municipal agencies including APD, APDEA, Health, Mayor's Office
- Anchorage School District

This Work Responds to Community Concerns

- In recent years, Anchorage has experienced heightened public concern regarding public safety and increased strain in relationships between the public and public safety systems.
- Community members expressed a need for greater transparency, accountability, communication, and **meaningful opportunities to engage with public safety agencies**, and have advocated for a public process to create a community-focused public safety body that works to achieve these goals.
- Several other cities have created public safety oversight bodies, with different models of authority, governance, and support resources needed.

Goals & Guiding Principles: What We Heard

Themes from Task Force & Community Process

- “The authority of the commission could help in bridging between system and community needs.”
- “Public safety assures safe neighborhoods and connected community members.”
- “Accountability in public safety systems is important, especially in community–police interactions.”
- “There is an interest in rebuilding and maintaining trust.”
- “Public safety is a broad topic and involves community health and other factors that help people feel safe.”

.... *At the same time*, most community discussion and recommendations focused on policing & law enforcement.

Goals & Guiding Principles



- “**Public safety**” includes law enforcement, fire & emergency response, justice system, and also overlaps with public health.
- The community’s understanding, communication with, and **meaningful involvement** in public safety systems will **increase trust** and result in **better policy**.
- The commission is a **bridge & forum** between the community at large, and Muni public safety agencies & policymakers.
- Whatever we put in code, we want it to **actually work long term!** Use lessons learned & avoid repeating prior failures.

Proposed New Public Safety Commission

AO No. 2026-62 proposes a commission that will serve as a:

- Independent, community-led advisory and review body that ***strengthens public safety, transparency and trust*** between the Municipality and the community
- Avenue to ***review policies at a systems level*** and to ***develop recommendations***
- Forum for community engagement and public input
- Consistent space to hear community concerns

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

14 Seats

Representing a broad balance of perspectives that reflect the full diversity of the Municipality

- **Nine community members** serve as **voting** members, reinforcing its role as a community-led body
- **Five ex officio, non-voting seats** are included to ensure consistent participation from **key departments** (APD, AFD, Dept. of Health, OEM, Dept. of Law)

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Powers & Duties

- Advisory role
- Policy review
- Community engagement
- Annual reporting
- Public hearings
- Requests for briefings or public records

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Limitations

- Actions must be taken by the body, individual commissioners are not empowered to act alone.
- May not interfere with active investigations, make disciplinary decisions or recommendations, nor access personnel records not otherwise permitted by law.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Meetings & Procedures

- Ongoing trainings for members (ideas for illustration):
 - Key topics relevant to commission
 - Demonstrations of technologies, procedures, etc.
 - APD & AFD ride-alongs
 - Ethics & governance trainings
- Volunteer basis
- Staff support provided by APD, AFD, and OEM on a rotating six-month basis

What This Ordinance ...

DOES

- Creates a community-led advisory commission on public safety.
- Includes diverse perspectives, lived experience, and community members as commissioners.
- Defines a clear purpose and set of activities, working alongside the public safety representatives.
- Imagines a commission that learns, listens, engages, and makes thoughtful recommendations.

DOES NOT DO

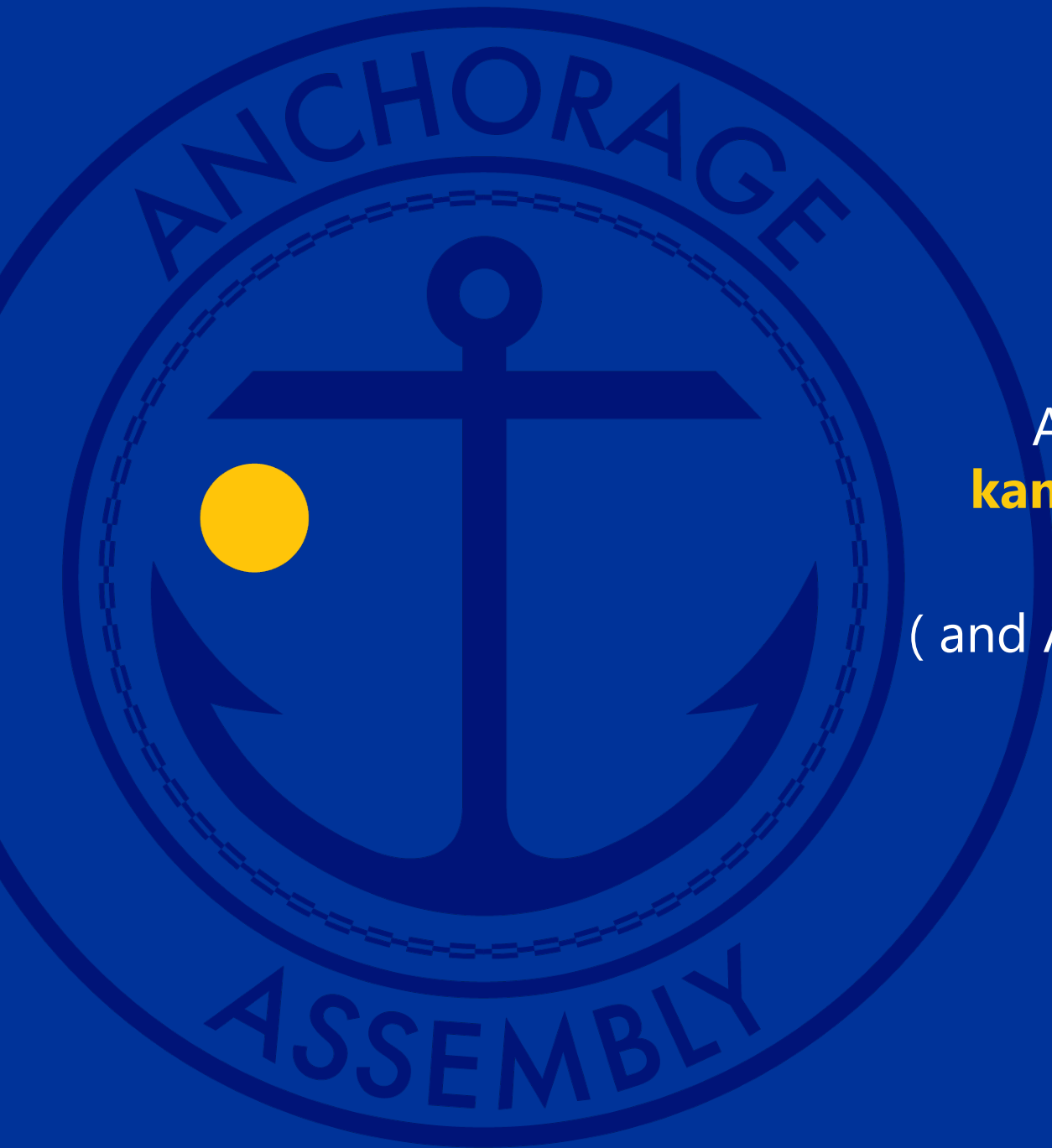
- Grant investigative, subpoena, or other decision powers to the body.
- Replace or change existing internal processes.
- Exclude public safety perspectives from the discussion table.
- Fully protect against what happened before: that depends on who is appointed, how it is supported by staff, and how the body carries out its purpose.

NEXT STEPS

Today: **Questions?**

May 26: **Public Hearing** at
Assembly meeting (AO 2026-62)

Soon: Sponsors working on
likely S version, to include
feedback & suggested changes



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(and Assembly Member *Emeritus* Felix Rivera)

THANK YOU

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