



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM
AM No. 586-2024

Meeting Date: July 30, 2024

1 **FROM: MAYOR**

2
3 **SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT – CONFIRMATION HEARING –**
4 **REBECCA “BECKY” WINDT PEARSON, MUNICIPAL MANAGER.**
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6 Pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Charter section 5.03 and Anchorage Municipal
7 Code sections 3.20.020 and 3.20.045, I ask the Assembly to confirm the following
8 executive that I have appointed:
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10 **Name:** **Position:**
11 Rebecca “Becky” Windt Pearson Municipal Manager
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13 A resume submitted in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code section
14 3.30.173 is attached for your information.
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16 THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
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18 Prepared by: Katie Scovic, Chief of Staff
19 Approved by: William D. Falsey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
20 Concur: Kent Kohlhase, P.E., Municipal Manager
21 Respectfully submitted: Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor

BECKY WINDT PEARSON

Experienced senior executive with diverse background within the public and private sectors. Proven track record of success in managing complex transactions, high-stakes litigation, and challenging public policy issues.

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT. J.D., 2009. *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*, Editor. Rebellious Lawyering Conference, Co-Director. Community and Economic Development Clinic, Student Director. *New Haven and the American City*, Community-Based Learning Teaching Assistant

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. A.B. *magna cum laude* in Sociology, 2002. John Harvard Scholarship for Academic Distinction. Stride-Rite Community Service Scholarship. Neil J. Houston Memorial Public Service Award.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GCI, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Administrative Officer. General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for GCI Communication Corp., Alaska-based provider of voice, video, and data communication services. Promoted to Chief Administrative Officer in February 2024. Executive lead of departments comprising 100+ attorneys and staff responsible for all company legal, regulatory, permitting, compliance, government relations, community relations, corporate communications, and human resources functions. Senior executive charged with setting and achieving strategic company goals. Manage \$20M annual budget (February 2020 – Present).

Key accomplishments include:

- Founded and set the vision and goals for the company’s inaugural ethics and compliance team. Developed ethics and compliance function from the ground up;
- Negotiated comprehensive \$42M settlement of regulatory compliance and False Claims Act claims with the Enforcement Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice;
- Guided company leadership through the legal complexities of the COVID 19 pandemic, including compliance with local, state, and federal public health requirements, ongoing operation of an essential business, transition to a remote-first work environment, and navigation of vaccination requirements applicable to federal contractors;
- Targeted advocacy to the Alaska Congressional Delegation regarding the framework for federal funding for broadband expansion, which resulted in creation of the transformational Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Act as a component of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Attorney. Chief legal officer for the Municipality of Anchorage and counsel to the Mayor of Anchorage and the Anchorage Assembly. Led department comprising 45+ attorneys and staff within civil, criminal, and administrative hearing divisions. Managed \$8M annual budget. Responsible for all contracting, transactions, civil litigation, and misdemeanor prosecutions conducted by the Municipality, and for press communications regarding legal issues. Drafted and defended legislation at the direction of the Mayor and members of the Assembly. Advised directly on critical legal issues, including complex transactions, settlement of high-stakes litigation, and U.S. and Alaska constitutional limitations on municipal government (November 2017 – January 2020).

Key accomplishments include:

- Led negotiation, documentation, and public and regulatory approval of \$1B sale of Anchorage’s Municipal Light and Power utility to Chugach Electric Association, Inc.;
- Established and led interdisciplinary team to drive abatement of nuisance properties on a Municipality-wide basis;
- Guided the Mayor and Assembly through the declaration and continuation of a state of emergency in response to the 2018 magnitude 7.0 earthquake;
- Designed transaction structure to allow for the acquisition of 716 W. 4th Avenue as headquarters for the Anchorage Police Department, including financing and direct acquisition by the Anchorage Community Development Authority and subsequent lease to the Municipality.

GCI, Senior Director, Real Estate, and Land Use Counsel. In-house real estate, land use, and corporate counsel to GCI Communication Corp. and founding executive lead of integrated environmental permitting and compliance team. Advised

company leadership and staff regarding real estate and land use matters. Reviewed, drafted, and negotiated real estate transaction documents and other contracts. Represented GCI in land use proceedings before state and municipal administrative tribunals and in superior court. Advocated for company interests in municipal legislative proceedings regarding tower construction (May 2015 – October 2017).

Key accomplishments include:

- Founded and led integrated environmental permitting and compliance team addressing federal, state, and local permitting and compliance requirements, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permitting, Alaska State Department of Conservation compliance and permitting, and local land use permitting;
- Served as lead in-house counsel in \$90M sale/lease-back of GCI's antenna structures;
- Served as legal lead in managing GCI's involvement in *Alaska Dispatch News* eviction and bankruptcy proceedings;
- Successfully worked with the Municipality of Anchorage to identify a permitting structure allowing for construction of the first dedicated wireless tower structure within Kincaid Park.

Ashburn & Mason, P.C., Attorney and Shareholder. Represented clients in a diversity of civil matters with a focus on commercial law, land use, public utilities, and municipal law. Negotiated deals and drafted transactional documents. Assisted in the firm's regulatory and civil litigation practice. Appeared in superior court, federal district court, and before state and municipal administrative tribunals (Anchorage, AK, September 2010 – March 2015).

Supreme Court of the State of Alaska, Justice Morgan Christen, Law Clerk. Researched and analyzed legal authority relevant to cases before the Supreme Court. Wrote bench memoranda, draft opinions, and additional analysis as needed to assist Justice Christen and the court in the process of making and issuing decisions (Anchorage, AK, August 2009 – August 2010).

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, and Garrison, LLP, Summer Associate. Drafted documents for complex real estate transactions involving public and private sector clientele. Researched and wrote on issues of corporate, land use, and tax law (New York, NY, Summer 2008).

New York City Economic Development Corporation, Legal Intern. Researched assorted legal issues relevant to economic development projects in New York City. (New York, NY, Spring 2008).

New York City Law Department, Economic Development Division, Summer Honors Intern. Researched and wrote on issues including contract law, eminent domain procedure, and the governance of local development corporations. Drafted documents including funding agreements, test-boring licenses and sublicenses, easements, and operating agreements (New York, NY, Summer 2007).

Additional Professional Experience: Lebanon City Planning Board (Lebanon, NH 2005 - 2006); Lebanon Pedestrian and Bike Path Advisory Committee (Lebanon, NH 2004 - 2006); Tucker Foundation of Dartmouth College, Community Programs Advisor (Hanover, NH, 2004 - 2006); Dean for America, Upper Valley Regional Field Director (Lebanon, NH, 2003 - 2004); Mother Caroline Academy, Middle School Teacher. (Dorchester, MA, 2002 - 2003); Let's Go, Inc., Travel Writer (Bavaria, Germany, 2002).

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Program for Infants and Children. Board Member (2023 to present).
Housing Alaskans: A Public/Private Partnership. Board Member (2023 to 2024).
Commonwealth North. Board Member (2020-present). Vice Chair (2023). Chair (January 2024-present).
Municipality of Anchorage Board of Ethics. Member (2015-2017; 2021-present). Chair (January 2022-October 2023).
Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association. President (2019), Vice President (2018).
Arctic Entries. Board Member, Story Coach, and Pro Bono Counsel (2011-2015)
St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Vestry Member, Youth Ministries (2010-2011).

SKILLS, INTERESTS, AND HONORS

Fluent in German, basic Spanish. Cyclist, runner, nordic and alpine skier. Admitted to the bar in Alaska and New York.
Alaska Journal of Commerce Top 40 Under 40, 2018.