

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2017-51, As Amended

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.60.275 TO PROVIDE FOR A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY.

1
2 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:
3

4 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 4.60.275 is hereby amended to read as follows
5 (*language indicating no amendment is included for context only*):

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7 **4.60.275 - Youth advisory commission.**

- 8
9 A. There is established a youth advisory commission consisting of 15 members between
10 14 and 22 years of age whose terms shall commence October 14, except as to
11 members appointed to fill an unexpired term. This commission will advise the mayor
12 and assembly on issues, services and programs. The special assistant on Youth
13 Development, or a designee selected by the mayor shall act as executive secretary for
14 the commission. Members will be appointed by the mayor, subject to approval by the
15 assembly.
16
- 17 B. The youth advisory commission shall have the following powers and duties:
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- 19 1. Advise the mayor and assembly on issues, services and programs from the
20 youth perspective in our community.
21
- 22 2. Assist and advise the administration and assembly in developing plans for the
23 establishment of programs and services where none now exist.
24
- 25 3. Assist in coordinating youth services and programs.
26
- 27 4. Assist and advise the mayor and assembly on existing services and programs
28 for youth.
29
- 30 5. Conduct educational and public relations programs designed to create public
31 awareness of the needs of youth and the services which youth can provide to
32 the community.
33
- 34 6. Conduct surveys and compile and disseminate information concerning
35 housing, health, nutrition, transportation, education, recreation, legal services,
36 and social and mental health services available or not available to youth.
37
- 38 7. At their own initiative, or in response from the mayor or assembly, make
39 recommendations to the mayor and assembly regarding policies, practices and
40 legislation from the youth perspective.

8. The commission shall select three adult community members to serve as its advisory board. Members will be appointed by the youth commission, subject to approval by the mayor.
 9. The commission shall nominate individual youths for appointment by majority vote of the Anchorage Assembly to serve as the Youth Representative to the Anchorage Assembly.
 - a. The Youth Representative to the Anchorage Assembly shall be seated with the Anchorage Assembly during regular and special meetings and may be recognized for comment by the presiding officer of the Assembly. For purposes of youth engagement and education in civics, the Youth Representative may indicate a "yes" or "no" vote on matters coming before the Anchorage Assembly; the Youth Representative vote shall not be counted by the Municipal Clerk. Youth Representative attendance shall not be counted in determining a quorum of the Anchorage Assembly.
 - b. At the time of appointment, the Youth Representative shall be at least 16 and not more than 18 years of age. Service as the Youth Representative is voluntary, without compensation.
 - c. The Youth advisory commission shall determine the term of appointment with a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year. No appointee may serve more than one year[The term of appointment is 3 months, and the term limit is three consecutive terms].
 10. The Youth Representative to the Anchorage Assembly shall not attend or participate in executive sessions of the Anchorage Assembly.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2017.

ATTEST:

Chair

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 219-2017

Meeting Date: March 21, 2017

1 **From:** ASSEMBLY MEMBER FLYNN
2 **Subject:** AO 2017-51 — AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL
3 ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICPAL CODE SECTION 4.60.275
4 TO PROVIDE FOR A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ANCHORAGE
5 ASSEMBLY.

6
7 Through interaction with elected representatives of local governments both inside and outside
8 of Alaska, we are made aware of opportunities to support our own community. As part of the
9 Anchorage Assembly's commitment to foster community action and organization grounded in
10 civics, this ordinance establishes a program for the nomination and appointment of a Youth
11 Representative to the Anchorage Assembly.

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13 The Youth Representative must be 16 years of age and is nominated by the Youth Advisory
14 Commission for appointment by majority vote of the Assembly. The Youth Representative
15 will be seated with the Assembly during regular and special meetings, may be recognized for
16 comment by the presiding officer, and for purposes of youth engagement and education in
17 civics, may indicate a "yes" or "no" vote on matters coming before the Anchorage Assembly.
18 The Youth Representative vote shall not be counted by the Municipal Clerk. Youth
19 Representative attendance shall not be counted in determining a quorum of the Anchorage
20 Assembly. Service as the Youth Representative is voluntary and without compensation. The
21 term of appointment is three months, and the term limit is three consecutive terms.

22
23 I was excited to learn of a similar program in an engaging community in Oregon, and that the
24 city council finds the program beneficial to all concerned. Many of our local tribal
25 governments and communities seek to identify potential leaders among the youth in the
26 community, and this allows an avenue for the Anchorage Assembly to engage youth and
27 promote leadership through civic involvement.

28
29 The Anchorage Youth Advisory Commission is in place and well positioned to assist the
30 Anchorage Assembly by identifying potential Youth Representatives for nomination. This is a
31 low maintenance opportunity to build civic engagement, at no monetary cost to the
32 Municipality of Anchorage.

33
34 I know I am not alone in appreciating and advancing opportunities for youth engagement
35 within our community. Adoption of a Youth Representative program complements the work
36 and volunteer activities of many others.

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39 Respectfully submitted:

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41 Patrick Flynn
42 Assembly Member, District 1 (Downtown)



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. AIM 63-2017

Meeting Date: May 9, 2017

1 **From:** Chair
2
3 **Subject:** **AO 2017-51, AS AMENDED, AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE**
4 **MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL**
5 **CODE SECTION 4.60.275 TO PROVIDE FOR A YOUTH**
6 **REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

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8 Comments from the Youth Advisory Commission are provided for the Assembly's
9 information and review.

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11 Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office
12 Approved by: Barbara A. Jones, Municipal Clerk
13 Respectfully submitted: Dick Traini, Chair

Commissioner Reviews of the Assembly Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING
ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.60.275 TO PROVIDE FOR A YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY.**

Brynn Morse, Youth Commissioner:

First, the ordinance needs to put an age cap for the position. I think it should be 18 because at that age a person can run for an actual seat.

Second, the unofficial requirements for that member should be listed. For example, "The youth representative to the Anchorage Assembly is expected to attend all meetings during his/her term(s)."

Third, while I agree that the vote can't count, it should be recorded so it is slightly more official. That will give anyone looking at voting history an idea of what youth representatives think is important.

Carly Dennis, Youth Commissioner, Youth Economic Support Committee Chair:

I think this ordinance is a great idea, and an important step in further engaging Anchorage youth in politics. I really like the term of three months, with a limit on three consecutive terms; I think that the nature of the Youth Representative position is very educational and ceremonial, and hence, offering the opportunity to multiple different youth is important.

I also think there is room for more connection between the Youth Representative and assembly members. As mentioned, this post seems to me to be largely educational. If the Youth Representative were to be assigned to an Assembly member, the Assembly member could act as a mentor for that Representative. The Assembly member could help the Representative learn about proposed ordinances and issues, and would also play a role in familiarizing the Youth Representative with Robert's Rules and procedures. In this way, the Youth Representative would receive maximum support for their position, and would leave the position with more substantial knowledge and experience concerning the technicalities of the Anchorage Assembly.

Rainier Herczeg, Commission Chair

The ordinance is a positive step in the direction of youth engagement in policy making. I believe that it shows that Anchorage is ready and able to show their support for the youth opinion. As other commissioners have stated I do believe there should be an age cap as well as a set requirement for the position. There will also need to be a laid out plan for choosing which youth will sit on the assembly, probably in a scholarship style application process or nomination. Overall I agree with the positive consensus of the commission.

David Holmes, Youth Commissioner

Why is the disband date set for 2018?

At 14 I would just be becoming eligible to possibly be a Youth Representative then.

John Jones, Youth Commissioner, Communications Chair:

This is very exciting news! I am pleased to hear that a program like this is being discussed by the Anchorage Assembly.

From the documents I see that the YAC would be responsible for nominating a youth for the position, and the Assembly would appoint the youth (the youth cannot serve longer than 3, 3 month terms). This is a minor concern, but I think the length of the term should be longer and with fewer re-appointments; something like a (5 month term: 2 re-appointments) would be better.

Under the current term length, I think it will be harder for the YAC to meet, interview, and nominate youth who are not at the center of major youth organizations. Maybe this is just me, but I hope this position can be used to enable youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to share with the Municipality. Without more time to reach out to youth, I think that our commissioners may feel inclined to mainly consider youth who they already know and have connections with. I do not believe that this is bad. Although, I feel like it would be harder to expand our networks and develop relationships with more youth if the delegate only serves 3 months, and does not seek reappointment. Do you think that's a realistic concern?

Also, can commissioners be nominated, or would that create problems?