

Joint Meeting of the Anchorage Assembly & Native Village of Eklutna
Thursday, December 1, 2025
City Hall – RM 155

Good afternoon. My name is Darrel Hess. It is my honor to serve as the Chair of the Municipality's Public Naming Commission. For decades, Anchorage struggled with how to make the process for naming of Municipal assets inclusive and representative of the many cultures that make Anchorage such a rich, vibrant community.

Over the years, voices in the community expressed a desire for us to implement a naming process that would be reflective of who we are and where we are going as a community. In response to those voices, in 2023 the Anchorage Assembly approved AO 2023-48(S), which implemented Anchorage Municipal Code, Chapter 1.80 – Naming of Public Places and established the Public Naming Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to implement the standards for public naming that are found in AMC 1.80.

I'd like to share with you the Commission's Vision Statement:

"We envision a Municipality of Anchorage where the names of public places reflect the full story of our community – the land's history, Indigenous place names, and the cultural, natural, and civic identities of our city. By recognizing stories and landscapes that shape our community, we aim to foster a sense of shared identity and belonging. Our work includes the careful consideration and recommendation of names for Municipal sites, objects, landscapes, and buildings. The Public Naming Commission uses a culturally aware naming process with active community input".

Over the past seven months, the Commission has developed our vision statement, annual calendar, submission form, and processes and procedures. We are now ready to start reviewing and responding to suggestions for the naming of Municipal assets, and to work collaboratively with the public and our community partners to implement an inclusive, culturally aware naming process.

Thank you for your time; I would now like to introduce Commissioner(s) XXX who will