

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Anchorage Assembly Leadership Statement on October 27 Meeting**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**October 27, 2021**

In the interest of public health, the Anchorage Assembly updated its COVID-19 mitigation plan for the safety and well-being of all persons in the Assembly Chambers. The plan is pursuant to Assembly Resolution 2021-191 and is informed by current CDC guidance. Maintaining safety in the Chambers during Assembly meetings is critical to ensuring that all members of our community have access to participate in civic life.

Tonight, however, the Administration prevented the Assembly from implementing the plan, and a majority of Assembly members felt that public health and safety could not be maintained with the number of unmasked people in the room. Therefore, the Assembly voted to recess and continue the meeting to October 28.

“It is our responsibility to ensure that the Assembly Chambers is a place where all members of our community can feel safe and exercise their civic rights without a threat to their health,” said Vice Chair Christopher Constant. “We very much want to get back to completing the people’s business, but we can’t disregard safety when the threat of COVID-19 is so high. Several people who recently attended Assembly meetings contracted COVID-19. Social media reports indicate that more than one subsequently died. We do not take this action lightly.”

Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance said, “The Assembly Leadership looks forward to working with the Administration to resolve this issue so that we can all return to the important work of completing the Municipality’s business and ensuring safe access to public participation.”

The Assembly will resume its meeting tomorrow evening, Thursday, October 28 at 5pm in the Assembly Chambers at Loussac Library.

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