

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Anchorage Assembly Leadership Pleased that Mayor Will Join Assembly in Funding Public Safety**

**April 9, 2022**

Anchorage Assembly leadership issued this statement following Mayor Bronson's announcement of his administration's proposed first quarter budget revisions:

"We are pleased that the Mayor has come around to accepting the bed and alcohol tax revenue forecasts that the Assembly approved in December during the budget process," said Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly Chair. "We welcome his support in funding the Assembly's public safety priorities. For the last seven years, the Assembly has made difficult budget cuts to free up funds to add 150 new police officers and non-sworn personnel and we've been holding the line to stop the practice of "rolling closures," which takes fire department apparatus offline when staffing is short, posing unacceptable risk to the public."

Christopher Constant, Vice Chair, said, "We are pleased to see the Mayor join the Assembly to support some of our community's public safety priorities. The Assembly has long been a champion of public safety. When the Mayor twice cut funding for police officers at our public schools, the Assembly voted to restore that funding. When life-saving fire apparatus were shut down, the Assembly appropriated funds to keep those apparatus running, though the Administration declined to stop the practice. The Administration prevented putting in effect the retention benefit raises for police officers that were negotiated in good faith and approved by the Assembly. Funds for those raises were in the budget the Assembly passed. We hope this newfound support for public safety continues. We are very much looking forward to first quarter budget revisions where the Assembly trues up the budget."

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