

Submitted by: Assembly Member Dern
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: April 18, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-137(S)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY CONDEMNING THE
THREAT OR USE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND PROMOTING CIVIL
DISCOURSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

WHEREAS, The Municipality of Anchorage is committed to defending democratic institutions, the integrity of our elections, and the security of people and facilities that carry out the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, tribal status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law, and as identified in:

- Article II, *Bill of Rights*, Section 7, of the Municipality's Home Rule Charter;
- Section 17.01 of the Municipality's Home Rule Charter,
- Anchorage Municipal Code section 3.30.011C., in the *Personnel Rules*;
- AMC Title 5, *Equal Rights*, section 5.10.010; and
- AMC Chapter 7.50, *Equal Employment Opportunity Contract Compliance*;

and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage has a public policy in Title 5 which states in part "It is the express intent of this title to guarantee fair and equal treatment under law to all people of the municipality, consistent with federal and state constitutional freedoms and laws, including freedom of expression, freedom of association and the free exercise of religion"; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of all of its community members and to ensure that they will be protected and their rights respected; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage wishes to affirm its commitment to cultivating an inclusive community, including within Municipal operations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our community is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger, more welcoming, and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, each of our elected leaders has the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness; celebrate diversity; work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society; prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation; and reject hate and bias in all forms and set a positive example for their constituents in this regard; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Report for 2022 on Murder and
2 Extremism in the United States states that “Extremism, both foreign and
3 domestic, spans across the ideological spectrum”, as do hate and biased
4 incidents, many of which are alarmingly underreported[DOMESTIC
5 EXTREMISTS—EXTREMISTS WHO ARE U.S. CITIZENS OR LONGTIME
6 PERMANENT RESIDENTS—REGULARLY COMMIT MURDERS TO FURTHER
7 THEIR CAUSES, USING DEADLY FORCE AGAINST PERCEIVED ENEMIES.[IN
8 ADDITION, EXTREMISTS ALSO OFTEN COMMIT MURDERS IN THE SERVICE
9 OF A GROUP OR GANG THEY MAY BELONG TO—TARGETING A RIVAL
10 GROUP MEMBER, FOR EXAMPLE, OR EVEN A SUSPECTED INFORMANT IN
11 THEIR OWN RANKS”]; AND

12
13 **WHEREAS**, THE ADL FOUND THAT THE RATE OF MURDERS BY DOMESTIC
14 EXTREMISTS RANGED FROM 22 TO 78 PER YEAR BETWEEN 2015 AND
15 2022]; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, disinformation, misinformation, and online conspiracy theories such as
18 Q-Anon are spreading and inspiring real-world political violence; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, tribal, federal, state, local and advocacy leaders have put forth a
21 call to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
22 Girls, and because Indigenous communities are at a disproportionately high
23 level of risk to experience hate and bias incidents, violence, murder, and
24 abduction; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, [SOME] members of the Anchorage Equity Committee of the Assembly,
27 a Special Assembly Committee whose members represent a variety of community
28 and faith-based groups and others offering perspectives from underrepresented
29 groups who have lived experience of systemic inequities, have reviewed and
30 support this resolution as a means to advance equitable outcomes by advising the
31 Anchorage Assembly in planning, policy formation, legislative work, budgeting and
32 programming, thereby empowering equity leaders to serve within the government
33 process; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage supports the peaceful exercise of free
36 speech, free assembly, and freedom to worship safely for all people; now, therefore,

37
38 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

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40 **Section 1.** That the following public policy positions are adopted for the
41 Municipality of Anchorage, and the Assembly hereby:

- 42
43 1. Affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, welcoming, safe,
44 and just society and culture – including within MOA operations and
45 institutions – that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure
46 equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our
47 individuality and commonality.
48
49 2. Denounces the threat, advocacy, or use of political violence or domestic

terrorism in any form as a means of effecting societal or political change.

3. Denounces extremism in all its forms, as described in this resolution, specifically those ideologies which promote the supremacy or inferiority of any group on the basis of ethnicity, **tribal status**, religion, gender, **gender identity**, **gender expression**, sexual orientation, physical ability, or national origin, and all hateful speech intended and likely to incite imminent violent action in our community.
4. Denounces extremist conspiracy theories, misinformation, and disinformation designed to cultivate an alienated and mistrustful electorate, undermine democratic institutions and processes, and increase the likelihood of political violence.
5. Commits to fostering an environment within the MOA workplace, its operations and institutions, that does not tolerate anti-government extremist, white supremacist, racist, antisemitic, misogynist, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQ+, ableist, and other hateful speech and actions.
6. Commits to countering hate and extremism through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight extremism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.
7. Urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, denouncing hate and extremism, and committing to the resolution of political disputes through an active peaceful civil discourse which acknowledges the worth of all human beings and the value of diverse viewpoints.

Section 2. That it recognizes the omission of some protected classes from the Anchorage Municipal Charter and supports efforts to bring forth a Charter amendment for the voters at an areawide municipal election to include **tribal status**, sexual orientation, **gender**, gender identity, **gender expression**, and mental disability in the list of prohibited discrimination grounds.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ___ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

Chair

Municipal Clerk