



Submitted by: Assembly Vice Chair Brawley
Assembly Member Perez-Verdia
Assembly Member Rivera
Prepared by: Assembly Legal Services Office
For reading: April 28, 2026

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2026-62

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.50 TO ENACT A NEW SECTION**
3 **4.50.120 AND ESTABLISH THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.**
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5
6 **WHEREAS**, public safety in the Municipality of Anchorage includes the coordinated
7 work of the Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department, Department
8 of Law, emergency response services, and the Anchorage Health Department, and
9 encompasses responses to crime, behavioral health needs, homelessness,
10 substance use, and overall community wellbeing; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly established a Public Safety Advisory
13 Commission in May 1995 to provide a forum for community input and advice on
14 matters of public safety; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, for many years the commission served the Municipality as a venue for
17 community engagement, dialogue, and collaboration on public safety issues; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, over time, concerns emerged that the commission was not consistently
20 reflecting the diversity and broad perspectives of the Anchorage community or
21 functioning in a way that fully met evolving needs of the Municipality and the public;
22 and
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24 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly allowed the commission to sunset and
25 terminate on January 31, 2024, in order to create space for thoughtful redesign and
26 renewed community engagement; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage does not have a consistent, structured, and accessible
29 forum within local government for community voices and dialogue on public safety
30 issues; and
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32 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality has multiple boards and commissions focused on
33 public health, including the housing, homeless and neighborhood development
34 commission, the municipal health and human services commission, and the
35 emergency medical service board; and
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37 **WHEREAS**, in recent years, Anchorage has experienced heightened public concern
38 regarding public safety, including but not limited to Missing and Murdered
39 Indigenous People, officer-involved shootings, substance use challenges such as
40 fentanyl, other opioids, methamphetamines, and other drugs, domestic violence,
41 sexual assault, child maltreatment, and other community safety issues, which have
42 contributed to increased strain in relationships between the public and public safety
43 systems; and

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2 **WHEREAS**, community members have for several years expressed a need for
3 greater transparency, accountability, communication, and meaningful opportunities
4 to engage with public safety agencies, and have advocated to the Municipality for a
5 public process to create a community-focused public safety body that works to
6 achieve these goals; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, in response, the Anchorage Assembly established a Public Safety Task
9 Force through AR 2025-111 to engage community members, municipal partners,
10 and stakeholders in reimagining a public safety commission, understand our current
11 public safety systems, consider various alternative models, and develop
12 recommendations to the Assembly and Administration; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force conducted a six-month public process from June to
15 December 2025 that included meetings, workshops, panels, written feedback, and
16 direct engagement with community members, including individuals with lived
17 experience, to inform its recommendations; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, throughout the Task Force process, the Assembly received regular
20 updates via Assembly Information Memorandums (AIM 153-2025, AIM 166-2025,
21 AIM 213-2025), as well as a final report with the Task Force's recommendations
22 (AIM 249-2025(A)); and
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24 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force identified the importance of creating a commission that
25 is community-informed, independent in perspective, and capable of strengthening
26 transparency, accountability, and trust between the public and local public safety
27 systems; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force recommendations included a range of potential
30 authorities for such a commission, reflecting a desire for a more robust oversight
31 and accountability role in policy development and review, alongside advisory and
32 community engagement functions, as well as diverse representation on the
33 commission that meaningfully reflects the whole community; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly has carefully considered these
36 recommendations alongside legal, operational, and sustainability considerations,
37 including the role of volunteer commissioners, the structure of existing municipal
38 systems, and the importance of maintaining clear boundaries with respect to
39 personnel matters and active investigations; and
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41 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly finds that a balanced model—emphasizing
42 advisory functions, robust community engagement, system-level review, and the
43 ability to recommend independent evaluations—will provide meaningful
44 accountability while ensuring clarity of roles, maintaining public trust, and supporting
45 effective public safety operations; and
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47 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly further finds that strengthening public safety
48 requires both accountability and collaboration, and that trust is built through
49 transparency, communication, and sustained community engagement; and
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51 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly further finds that any new commission will

1 need to take a broad interest in public safety, shifting its focus between the various
2 public safety agencies while still responding to the immediate needs of the
3 community; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Municipality of Anchorage to establish a
6 reimagined Anchorage Public Safety Commission that reflects these principles and
7 provides a durable, community-informed structure for engagement, review, and
8 advisory input on public safety systems; now, therefore,
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10 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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12 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 4.50 is hereby amended to add a
13 new section 4.50.120 as follows (*requiring no legislative formatting*):
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15 **4.50.120 Public safety commission.**

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17 A. The Anchorage Assembly hereby establishes an Anchorage Public
18 Safety Commission (“Commission”) to serve as an independent,
19 community-led advisory and review body that strengthens public
20 safety, transparency, and trust between the Municipality and the
21 community. The Commission shall:
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- 23 1. Advise the Mayor and Assembly on public safety policy,
24 systems, and strategies;
- 25 2. Participate in system-level reviews of public safety policies and
26 practices;
- 27 3. Serve as a structured forum for community input and
28 engagement, and sharing lived experiences; and
- 29 4. Promote transparency, accountability, and continuous
30 improvement across public safety systems.
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33 B. *Composition.* The commission shall be comprised of 14 seats
34 consisting of nine voting commissioners and five ex officio members.
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- 36 1. Nine commissioners with authority to vote shall be appointed
37 consistent with section 4.05.020.
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39 a. The total composition of the commission should
40 encompass a broad balance of perspectives and reflect
41 the full diversity of the Municipality, to include:
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43 i. Members of the community with lived experience
44 interacting with law enforcement relevant to the
45 purpose of the commission;
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47 ii. Subject matter experts in fields of study relevant
48 to the purpose of the commission; and
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- a. Commissioners shall serve a term of three years, with appointments staggered so that not more than three member terms expire each year.
 - b. Commissioners are subject to a term limit of three consecutive full terms beginning when a board member has been appointed to a full three-year term. Time served by a commissioner during any initial partial term less than three years shall not be counted in connection with the term limit.
 - c. After serving three consecutive full terms, the same commissioner may continue to serve until either another commissioner can be appointed or 90 days have elapsed.
4. *Removal.* Commissioners may be removed from office in accordance with section 4.05.065. For the purposes of this section, “breach of public trust” shall include:
- a. Disclosure of confidential information to a third party;
 - b. Non-compliance with MOA Code of Ethics per AMC 1.15; and
 - c. Non-disclosure of material conflict of interest.
- C. *Powers and duties.* The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
1. *Advisory Role.* Provide recommendations to and advise the Mayor and Assembly on public safety policy, systems, and strategies;
 2. *Review.*
 - a. Participate in system-level review of public safety policies, practices, and outcomes to identify trends, patterns, and systemic issues, and evaluate alignment with best practices and community needs.
 - b. This body does not have the ability to conduct independent investigations. The body may request an independent review of specific incidents after completion of investigations and conclusion of any personnel matters.
 3. *Community Engagement.* Serve as a structured forum for community input and engagement by holding public hearings on any subject within the scope of its purpose.

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4. *Reporting.* Publish an annual report to the mayor and assembly, and make interim or specific recommendations to address immediate concerns.
 5. *Authority.* To accomplish its duties, the commission, upon establishing a quorum, shall have authority to:
 - a. Request and receive briefings from departments;
 - b. Convene public hearings and receive testimony on subjects within the scope of its purpose; and
 - c. Access any file releasable as a public record under subsection 3.90.040C. Requests for records shall be in the form of a resolution approved by a majority of the commissioners.
 6. *Limitations.* All powers and duties of the commission are conveyed to the body as a whole, and not to the individual commissioners. Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the following authority to the commission:
 - a. Interfere with or in any way participate in active law enforcement investigations;
 - b. Conduct independent investigations;
 - c. Make disciplinary decisions or recommendations;
 - d. Engage or interject in collective bargaining negotiations; or
 - e. Access personnel records not otherwise permitted by law.
- D. *Commissioner training.*
1. Each commissioner shall receive training in the following matters within six months of their appointment:
 - a. Fundamentals of the criminal justice system, to be provided by the department of law.
 - b. Procedures and operations of the police department and fire department.
 2. The commission shall receive annual training from the board of ethics and the department of law on issues relevant to its mission.

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E. *Commission operation and communication.*

- 1. The commission shall meet no less than quarterly, and all meetings shall be publicly noticed pursuant to AMC chapter 1.25 and 4.05 except as follows.
- 2. The commission chair shall be selected by an affirmative majority vote of seated commissioners.
- 3. Within its first six months, the commission shall adopt bylaws and procedures governing its operations and the conduct of meetings. These bylaws and procedures shall be submitted for approval by the assembly as a regulation pursuant to section 3.40.040.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 287-2026

Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

1 **From: Assembly Vice Chair Brawley, Assembly Member Perez-Verdia, and**
2 **Assembly Member Rivera**

3
4 **Subject: AO 2026-XXX – AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL**
5 **ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE**
6 **CHAPTER 4.50 TO ENACT A NEW SECTION 4.50.120 AND**
7 **ESTABLISH THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.**
8

9 The effort to reimagine the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) has been
10 underway for over a year and is part of a larger community conversation about how
11 to strengthen trust with our public safety systems, create a consistent forum for these
12 discussions, and continuing to strengthen relationships between local government
13 leaders, agencies, and the community we all serve.

14 Part of this year-long effort was the establishment of a Task Force (AR 2025-111),
15 funded with a budget amendment in spring 2025 to support a facilitation contract,
16 which met over the course of five months (June-November 2025) to explore the
17 community's role in public safety, considered strategies for community engagement,
18 and develop recommendations for the Assembly to consider in reimaging the
19 PSAC. Its final report was published December 2025 (AIM 249-2025(A)). The
20 Assembly and the public were briefed with regular updates (AIM 153-2025, AIM 166-
21 2025, and AIM 213-2025), which provide more detailed context. Recommendations
22 and regular reports can be found online at the Assembly's focus on Public Safety
23 webpage ([https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-safety.aspx)
24 [safety.aspx](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-safety.aspx)), including documentation of who served on the Task Force, the meeting
25 schedule and recordings, and other context.

26 In developing this proposed ordinance, the sponsors carefully considered not only
27 the Task Force's recommendations, but also the months of deliberation on this topic;
28 engagement with a variety of stakeholders; interviews with some former PSAC
29 members; discussions with Municipal department staff including the Ombudsman; a
30 review of models from other communities; and a comparison of the structure, duties,
31 and requirements of existing boards and commissions in Municipal Code.

32 Ultimately, the new Public Safety Commission is proposed to remain advisory, but
33 with an expanded role in policy review, public engagement, and opportunities to
34 make policy recommendations. The sponsors also placed a strong focus on
35 representation on the commission, with the goal of establishing guardrails for true
36 community representation over time and preserving its role as a community-led body.
37 The sponsors recognize that this proposal does not adopt every recommendation put
38 forward by the Task Force but reflects a balanced approach that incorporates those

1 priorities alongside the perspectives of the whole community. This proposal
2 represents a shift from the previous PSAC by adopting a systems-level approach to
3 public safety, strengthening the commission’s role in policy review and
4 recommendations, and establishing a structure that prioritizes community-led
5 representation while ensuring access to subject-matter expertise.

7 SUMMARY OF POLICY CHOICES

8 **Purpose and Scope**

- 9 • The commission is established as a Technical Advisory Board instead of a
10 Program Advisory Board. While it remains advisory in nature, this distinction
11 reflects the complexity of public safety systems and recognizes that
12 commissioners will develop greater expertise over time and engage in review
13 and recommendations of a more technical nature than many advisory boards.
- 14 • The Commission’s purpose includes serving as a forum for community
15 engagement and public input; providing a consistent space to hear community
16 concerns; reviewing public safety policies at a systems level; and developing
17 recommendations. As part of this role, the Commission may also review
18 individual cases after the fact as part of broader role in making
19 recommendations for systems improvements.
- 20 • This body is not granted the authority or responsibility for conducting
21 investigations or receiving confidential information that is not publicly available,
22 although the commission has the authority to request a third-party
23 investigation, which is not standard practice but is a tool which has been used
24 recently in some cases. Any review of individual cases is limited to publicly
25 available information and is conducted solely for the purpose of identifying
26 system-level improvements. The commission is not authorized to conduct
27 investigations or make determinations of fault.

29 **Composition**

- 30 • The Commission is structured to ensure that community members serve as
31 voting members, reinforcing its role as a community-led body.
- 32 • Five ex officio, non-voting seats are included to ensure consistent participation
33 from key departments. These members serve as resources and provide
34 subject-matter input, while maintaining a clear separation from voting on
35 recommendations. The inclusion of non-voting ex officio members is intended
36 to ensure consistent access to subject-matter expertise and improve
37 coordination across departments, while preserving the commission’s role as
38 an independent, community-led body.

- 1 • Voting membership is intended to consist of individuals from but not employed
2 by the Municipality to preserve independence and a community-centered
3 perspective.
- 4 • The structure is designed to promote broad and balanced representation over
5 time to reduce the risk that the Commission becomes less representative and
6 independent as commission appointments change. Limits on individuals
7 currently working in the public safety field, as well as their immediate family
8 members, are intended to maintain this balance, reflecting lessons learned
9 from prior iterations of the Commission.
- 10 • Unlike subject-matter advisory bodies (e.g., the Geotechnical Advisory
11 Commission), this Commission is not designed to require specific technical
12 expertise, but rather to elevate community-based perspectives.
- 13 • Term limits are included to balance continuity with a schedule of regular
14 turnover, ensuring both institutional knowledge and opportunities for new
15 voices over time.

17 **Powers and Duties**

- 18 • The Commission's role in policy review is intended to be broad and flexible.
19 Policy review is not required in all instances, nor is it limited to circumstances
20 in which a department formally requests input. The Commission may
21 proactively identify and review policies at its discretion.
- 22 • The annual reporting requirement is intended to be concise and accessible.
23 This may take the form of a brief letter summarizing key activities, such as the
24 number of meetings held, resolutions or recommendations issued, and other
25 notable highlights. It is not intended to be a comprehensive staff report or
26 require extensive data analysis, though additional information may be included
27 where appropriate.
- 28 • The Commission is authorized to make records requests at no cost, consistent
29 with applicable laws, and to hold public hearings in furtherance of its duties.

31 **Meetings and Procedures**

- 32 • The Commission may enter into executive session when legally appropriate,
33 consistent with existing authority under AMC Title 4. This tool is expected to be
34 used sparingly and only when clearly warranted and still retains the
35 expectation that the information the Commission receives is public information,
36 but may require discussion of sensitive legal matters.
- 37 • All actions must be taken by the Commission as a body. Individual
38 commissioners are not authorized to make records requests, conduct
39 hearings, or otherwise act on behalf of the Commission independently.

1 Actions, including records requests and formal recommendations, must be
2 approved by a majority vote.

- 3 • Ongoing training is emphasized to support commissioners in carrying out their
4 roles effectively and with a strong understanding of relevant subject matter.
5 Training opportunities may include support from the Municipal Attorney's
6 Office, the Board of Ethics, and departments such as Anchorage Police
7 Department, Anchorage Fire Department, and Anchorage Office of Emergency
8 Management, as well as the Ombudsman and other subject-matter experts.
9 The Commission may also request third-party training on specific topics as
10 needed.
- 11 • Commissioners serve on a volunteer basis, consistent with the structure of
12 most Municipal boards and commissions.

13
14 This proposal reflects a balanced and thoughtful approach that strengthens public
15 trust, improves coordination across public safety systems, and creates a durable
16 structure for meaningful community engagement in public safety policy.

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19 Respectfully submitted: Assembly Vice Chair Anna Brawley,
20 District 3 – West Anchorage

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22 Assembly Member Kameron Perez-Verdia,
23 District 3 – West Anchorage

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25 Assembly Member Felix Rivera,
26 District 4 – Midtown Anchorage