ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2023-90

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.20.140, OFFICE OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE, AND SECTION 7.10.030, POWERS AND DUTIES OF PURCHASING OFFICER, TO ADD REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS, PERIODIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING, COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LANGUAGE ACCESS AND DISADVANTAGED AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS (D/WBE) REGULATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, in 2014 Anchorage joined the Welcoming Cities project, a collection of cities from across the United States that recognizes the economic, cultural and social contributions that immigrants and refugees make to our communities; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2020, the Anchorage Assembly established the Office of Equity and Justice by enacting AO 2020-79(S) As Amended; and

WHEREAS, AO 2020-79(S) As Amended created the position of Chief Equity Officer with the responsibilities of "developing, supporting, and implementing the municipality’s equity agenda"; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently the role of the Assembly to set and declare policy of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly remains committed to the Welcoming Anchorage Roadmap and to removing the inequities which still create barriers to educational success, economic opportunity and wellness, and undermine the collective prosperity of residents in the Municipality of Anchorage; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Anchorage Municipal Code 3.20.140 Office of Equity and Justice is hereby amended to read as follows (the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out):

3.20.140 Office of equity and justice.

A. There is established an office of equity and justice including a chief equity officer, office of equal opportunity director, and disadvantaged business enterprise compliance officer.

1. Chief equity officer.
c. The chief equity officer may be dismissed by the mayor only for cause shown, and only with the concurrence of a majority of the assembly.

d. The chief equity officer shall be responsible for analyzing and identifying systemic inequities in the municipality, specifically addressing, but not limited to, the following:

i. Educational opportunities and outcomes;

ii. Economic opportunities and outcomes;

iii. Physical and mental wellness and access to resources; and

iv. The overall access to and provision of municipal services/

Based on this analysis, the chief equity officer shall establish, collect, and evaluate equity baseline data targets, performance indicators, and progress benchmarks for addressing systemic disparities and shall submit a semiannual report to the assembly and the mayor in the form of a memorandum with accurate data and recommendations for continued improvement regarding race and equity policy issues and long-range plans.

e. The chief equity officer shall be responsible for an annual review of all office of equal opportunity business enterprise activities to ensure compliance and shall submit a report to the assembly with the results of this review in the form of a memorandum.

2. Office of equal opportunity director.

a. On program and policy matters relating to minority business and contract compliance and equal employment opportunity, the director of the office of equal opportunity shall have direct and independent access to the mayor.

b. The director shall be responsible for an annual review of all departmental language access plans to ensure compliance with language access laws and shall submit an annual report to the assembly and the mayor in the form of a memorandum with the results of this review and any suggested changes to department language access plans.
Section 2. Anchorage Municipal Code 7.10.030 Powers and Duties of Purchasing Officer is hereby amended to read as follows (the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out):

7.10.030 Powers and duties of purchasing officer.

Except as this Code provides otherwise, the purchasing officer shall have the following authority and responsibilities:

F. To compile and maintain a log of all contracts awarded for supplies, services, professional services or construction, together with any amendments thereto; [AND]

G. To monitor the performance of duties of the disadvantaged and women-owned business enterprise program office in Chapter 7.60 and maintain a log of all municipal contracts, and of subcontractors to a prime with a municipal contract, awarded to a certified D/WBE businesses.

H. To ensure contractors with the municipality comply with all federal regulations regarding language access plans, pursuant to chapter 7.50; and

I. Any other authorities and responsibilities which this title assigns the purchasing officer.

(AO No. 79-203, 1-1-80)

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

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

______________________________
Chair

ATTEST:

______________________________
Municipal Clerk
From: Assembly Member Rivera

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.20.140, OFFICE OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE, AND SECTION 7.10.030, POWERS AND DUTIES OF PURCHASING OFFICER, TO ADD REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS, PERIODIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING, COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LANGUAGE ACCESS AND DISADVANTAGED AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS (D/WBE) REGULATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS.

This proposed ordinance is intended to provide the Assembly with substantive feedback on the work being done by the Office of Equity and Justice and the impact being made, specifically by the Chief Equity Officer. As the Municipality cannot hope to address systemic inequalities in our community unless we know what these disparities are and where they persist, this ordinance requires the Chief Equity Officer to develop objective metrics and report their findings to us on a regular basis.

Additionally, this proposed ordinance explicitly requires the OEO Director ensure our compliance with applicable language access laws, as well as requiring the Purchasing Officer ensure our contractors’ compliance with language access laws.

I request your support for the ordinance.

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
Respectfully submitted: Felix Rivera, Assembly Member
District 4 – Midtown Anchorage