

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AO No. 2023-90**

1  
2 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**  
3 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.20.140, OFFICE OF EQUITY AND**  
4 **JUSTICE, AND SECTION 7.10.030, POWERS AND DUTIES OF PURCHASING**  
5 **OFFICER, TO ADD REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LANGUAGE ACCESS**  
6 **PLANS, PERIODIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING, COMPLIANCE WITH**  
7 **FEDERAL LANGUAGE ACCESS AND DISADVANTAGED AND WOMEN-**  
8 **OWNED BUSINESS (D/WBE) REGULATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS.**  
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12 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 Anchorage joined the Welcoming Cities project, a collection of  
13 cities from across the United States that recognizes the economic, cultural and  
14 social contributions that immigrants and refugees make to our communities; and

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

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, AO 2020-79(S) As Amended created the position of Chief Equity  
20 Officer with the responsibilities of “developing, supporting, and implementing the  
21 municipality’s equity agenda”; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, it is inherently the role of the Assembly to set and declare policy of the  
24 Municipality of Anchorage; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly remains committed to the Welcoming Anchorage  
27 Roadmap and to removing the inequities which still create barriers to educational  
28 success, economic opportunity and wellness, and undermine the collective  
29 prosperity of residents in the Municipality of Anchorage; now, therefore,

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31 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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

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37 **3.20.140 Office of equity and justice.**

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

42  
43 1. Chief equity officer.

1  
2 \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

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

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

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11 i. Educational opportunities and outcomes;

12  
13 ii. Economic opportunities and outcomes;

14  
15 iii. Physical and mental wellness and access to  
16 resources; and

17  
18 iv. The overall access to and provision of municipal  
19 services/

20  
21 Based on this analysis, the chief equity officer shall  
22 establish, collect, and evaluate equity baseline data  
23 targets, performance indicators, and progress  
24 benchmarks for addressing systemic disparities and  
25 shall submit a semiannual report to the assembly and  
26 the mayor in the form of a memorandum with accurate  
27 data and recommendations for continued improvement  
28 regarding race and equity policy issues and long-range  
29 plans.

30  
31 e. The chief equity officer shall be responsible for an  
32 annual review of all office of equal opportunity business  
33 enterprise activities to ensure compliance and shall  
34 submit a report to the assembly with the results of this  
35 review in the form of a memorandum.

36  
37 2. *Office of equal opportunity director.*

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

44  
45 b. The director shall be responsible for an annual review of  
46 all departmental language access plans to ensure  
47 compliance with language access laws and shall submit  
48 an annual report to the assembly and the mayor in the  
49 form of a memorandum with the results of this review  
50 and any suggested changes to department language  
51 access plans.

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(AO No. 2020-79(S), § 3, 8-26-20; AO No. 2021-114 , § 2, 1-31-22)

**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:

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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



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 673-2023

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

1 **From: Assembly Member Rivera**

2  
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**  
4 **AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.20.140,**  
5 **OFFICE OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE, AND SECTION 7.10.030,**  
6 **POWERS AND DUTIES OF PURCHASING OFFICER, TO ADD**  
7 **REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS,**  
8 **PERIODIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING, COMPLIANCE WITH**  
9 **FEDERAL LANGUAGE ACCESS AND DISADVANTAGED AND**  
10 **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS (D/WBE) REGULATIONS, AND**  
11 **RELATED MATTERS.**

12  
13 This proposed ordinance is intended to provide the Assembly with substantive  
14 feedback on the work being done by the Office of Equity and Justice and the impact  
15 being made, specifically by the Chief Equity Officer. As the Municipality cannot hope  
16 to address systemic inequalities in our community unless we know what these  
17 disparities are and where they persist, this ordinance requires the Chief Equity  
18 Officer to develop objective metrics and report their findings to us on a regular basis.

19  
20 Additionally, this proposed ordinance explicitly requires the OEO Director ensure  
21 our compliance with applicable language access laws, as well as requiring the  
22 Purchasing Officer ensure our contractors' compliance with language access laws.

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24 **I request your support for the ordinance.**

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