

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2025-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF TRAFFIC CAMERAS AND TRAFFIC CAMERA RECORDINGS THROUGHOUT THE MUNICIPALITY.

WHEREAS, a record fifteen pedestrians were struck and killed by automobiles on Anchorage streets in 2024 and 2025 continues apace; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2024, the Anchorage Daily News (AND) reported that, as part of its ongoing effort to reduce pedestrian fatalities and traffic collisions, the Municipality had been installing traffic cameras at traffic signals since 2017; and

WHEREAS, according to the Municipal Traffic Department, as of the publication of ADN's report the Municipality had already installed cameras at 283 traffic signals, and was on schedule to have cameras installed at every remaining intersection throughout the Municipality by the end of the summer of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the individual's right to privacy is protected by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and is explicitly immortalized in Alaska Constitution Art. 1, § 22, known as one of the strongest guarantees of privacy in the country; and

WHEREAS, the ubiquitous employment of cameras throughout the Municipality represent a serious concern for the privacy rights of the people of an Anchorage and the visitors to our hometown; and

WHEREAS, in the past, both the Assembly and the Ombudsman have received allegations of previous administrations misusing surveillance footage from security cameras within city hall; and

WHEREAS, there currently exist no published limitations or procedures on the use of these traffic cameras and the footage they produce although members of the Assembly have requested a published policy for a significant period of time; now therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly calls on the Administration to formalize, adopt, and publish a clear policy and procedure governing the use of traffic cameras and the appropriate storage, use, release, and destruction of the video records created by traffic cameras throughout the Municipality to be delivered by October 15, 2025, concurrent with the reported completion of camera installations at all intersections. Policies and procedures should primarily be based on the following goals and principles:

1. Transparency for the municipal government in the field and accountability to the public for their actions.
2. Privacy rights of individuals and respect for crime victims, criminal suspects, and juveniles.

Section 2. Any proposed policy and procedure for traffic cameras should incorporate the following features, and others as deemed appropriate:

1. Express limitations on municipal personnel with access to traffic cameras as well as authority to review traffic camera footage;
2. A requirement for a log of all access of municipal traffic cameras including the individual requesting the information, the date and time of access, the record accessed, whether or not a copy of the material was provided to the requester, among other elements
3. Record retention schedule and procedures for the routine maintenance and destruction of traffic camera recordings;
4. Reasonable criteria and procedures for the public release of video footage, with appropriate redactions as required by law, particularly with regard to incidents of public significance and interest;
5. Clear legal thresholds and definitions, as well as explicit procedures for the provision of traffic camera footage to law enforcement personnel; and
6. Identified staff for conducting legal review of traffic camera footage and redaction, prioritizing those necessary for prosecutor's compliance with criminal court discovery rules and a defendant's right to a speedy trial.

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 _____, 2025.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk