



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 522-2025

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

1 **From: Assembly Chair Constant**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**
4 **AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.05 AND SECTIONS**
5 **8.45.015 AND 15.20.020 TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PREMISES BY**
6 **PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS**
7 **CONSISTENT WITH CITY OF GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON AND OTHER LAW; AND**
8 **SUBMITTING A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE**
9 **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AT A REGULAR ELECTION THE QUESTION OF**
10 **WHETHER TO APPROVE AN AREAWIDE SPECIAL TAX LEVY DEDICATED TO**
11 **PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF ADDRESSING PROHIBITED CAMPSITES AND**
12 **PROVIDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF DISPLACED HOMELESS**
13 **PERSONS.**
14

15 This Substitute version of the ordinance is proposed in order to provide a funding source
16 for what is foreseeably going to be a very costly effect of enacting the criminal camping
17 penal code provisions offered in the original ordinance. There are easily hundreds of
18 unsheltered individuals in the Municipality of Anchorage at any given time, many whom
19 are living in prohibited campsites. The criminal camping offense would become
20 enforceable, if passed, in this environment allowing potentially hundreds of criminal
21 charges to be brought, prosecuted and convicted defendants incarcerated, all for which
22 the Municipality must pay.
23

24 This request is for an annual levy of a special tax areawide in the Municipality only
25 sufficient to collect not to exceed \$15,000,000, which could support a substantial amount
26 of annual prohibited campsite abatement actions and misdemeanor criminal
27 prosecutions. Only with new funding can the Municipality support criminalizing camping
28 effectively, without sacrificing current funding levels for municipal services and programs.
29 This model was successful in the past to pay for new APD information technology,
30 including body-worn cameras, to fund new emergency medical equipment and systems
31 for AFD, and when the Maintenance & Operations Department needed new snow removal
32 and hauling fleet vehicles and equipment. Additional funds, should they exist, will be used
33 for funding of key supports including housing, treatment, case management, and other
34 core services.
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36 The (S) version adds a new Section 5 for the ballot proposition to authorize a special tax
37 levy, and changes to Section 7 with effective dates make the Code amendments in
38 Sections 1 through 4 effective only upon passage of the ballot proposition when election
39 results are certified.
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41 **I request your support for the (S) version of the ordinance.**

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43 Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
44 Respectfully submitted: Christopher Constant, Assembly Chair
45 District 1 – North Anchorage