

Anchorage Assembly Members

Suzanne LaFrance, Chair · Christopher Constant, Vice-Chair

Jamie Allard · Forrest Dunbar · Crystal Kennedy · Kameron Perez-Verdia · Pete Petersen
Felix Rivera · Austin Quinn-Davidson · John Weddleton · Meg Zaletel



2022 PROGRESS REPORT

2021 Accomplishments continued

Communications

- Established a **formal government-to-government relationship with the Native Village of Eklutna** and worked with Eklutna, Inc. to increase collaboration
- Launched **reapportionment to update election district boundaries** after the 2020 U.S. Census
- Conducted the **annual review and update of Title 28 election code** and updated the election observer handbook
- **Continued to create more opportunities for public engagement** in Assembly processes, such as virtual committee meetings, phone testimony and an online form for written testimony
- Launched Public Portal to Assembly Documents to **create ease of access to Assembly records**
- **Strengthened Assembly procedures and improved communications**, including hiring the Legislative Liaison position

Quality of Life

- Assembly Members **helped constituents and community councils navigate drainage, permits, traffic calming** and other neighborhood issues
- Completed **site selections for a Chugiak-Eagle River and Girdwood cemeteries**
- **Spearheaded equity and fairness initiatives:** created Chief Equity Officer, created an ad-hoc Equity Committee, addressed laws and processes that perpetuate discrimination, and participated in racial equity dialogues
- AMATS created **complete streets policy** and scoring system **to promote pedestrian, bike and trail improvements, and economic development**

Infrastructure

- Supported **bonds that led to the renovation of critical roads, parks and facilities**, such as Gruening Middle School and Eagle River Elementary School after the earthquake, and senior centers and library improvements
- AWWU provided alternate **access to a water pump station** for Chugiak-Eagle River
- Added **popular and well-used parks** to the 2022 Parks and Recreation bond
- **Continued repairs** related to the Point McKenzie Earthquake



2021 Accomplishments

Economic Development

- Planned and quickly **distributed federal economic recovery aid** funds, including rental and mortgage relief, small business assistance, childcare aid, and arts and culture grants
- Significantly **advanced the Port of Alaska upgrades:** aligned diverse interests to create a plan, approved revenue bonds to leverage federal and state funds, and broke ground on Petroleum Cement Terminal upgrade (to be completed in summer 2022)
- Finalized the sale of Municipal Light & Power, adding to a trust fund to support the **long-term stability of the Municipality's finances**
- Navigated the Municipality's finances through years of reductions in state funding
- Helped **streamline and improve processes for homebuilders:** electronic plan submittal led to more permits issued with less wait time for builders, added video inspection of roofs, and addressed one of the challenges with sprinkler system requirements for single family dwellings
- **Implemented the land use plan to encourage affordable housing** development: including tax abatement for downtown apartment construction, Chugach Way project with Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Public Safety

- **Responded to the pandemic:** passed health and safety measures and delivered financial aid to community members and businesses
- **Preserved alcohol tax funds for a broad range of community-supported preventative** and day-to-day programs, such as domestic violence prevention grants and victims' support
- Helped establish the *Crisis Now* response system and **established the Mobile Crisis Team** through the alcohol tax
- Approved a proposition for **Anchorage Police Department in-car and body-worn cameras**, which was passed by the Anchorage voters
- **Increased police dispatchers** and support staff (alcohol tax) to help continue the decrease in crime

Housing & Homelessness

- Continued progress on a **comprehensive system to address homelessness:** welcomed new partners, established a collaboration with the Mayor, secured investments from philanthropy and business, and increased clarity on the *Anchored Home* community plan to end homelessness, and funded the first portion of the plan
- Invested in United Way's *Home for Good* program to find **supportive housing for 150 of Anchorage's most visible and vulnerable homeless residents**
- Used federal COVID aid funds to establish a mass care shelter, **provide rental and mortgage relief, and utilities assistance**



2022 Priorities

Port of Alaska Modernization

support rapid timeline that launches Phase II construction by summer 2024

Monitor MOA Financial Health

build reserve funds and recover FEMA reimbursements

Promote Economic Recovery

support housing, small business and workforce development; prepare for Federal Infrastructure Bill funds

Public Health and Safety

fund public safety & mental health services; support Crisis Now model

Assembly Communications

continue to share updates and make processes more accessible

2022 Goals

Economic Development

- **Stimulate economic revitalization:** incentivize new businesses and entrepreneurship, address workforce issues, support arts and culture recovery, and spur job creation through bonds, federal infrastructure projects, tax abatement, grants, and municipal code changes & process improvements
- **Identify and address barriers in municipal processes:** tax abatement, permits, fire code, bear carts
- **Build Municipality's reserve and 181 building funds & ensure recovery of FEMA reimbursements**
- Distribute the 2022 **federal pandemic recovery funds**
- Create a **Chugiak-Eagle River Planning and Zoning Commission**
- **Revitalize downtown Eagle River** and promote community-minded economic development per the Chugiak-Eagle River comprehensive plan
- Work through **Title 23** building code and **Title 21** land use revisions
- Create incentives for **municipal departments to reduce annual spending** by allowing carry over to the next budget year and update **financial thresholds for items that come before the Assembly**
- **Implement Land Use Plan**, pre-emptive rezones and Reinvestment Focus Areas

Public Safety

- Expand **focus on mental and behavioral health issues:** continue investment in Mobile Crisis Team and *Crisis Now* framework by partnering with agencies to establish stabilization centers and a crisis call center; engage the **Mobile Crisis Team in Chugiak-Eagle River** issues
- Assist in **improving recruitment for APD and AFD Academies** to keep up with attrition, including ensuring gender and ethnic diversity
- Continue to **monitor pandemic impacts and pass health and safety measures** as needed
- Address **Glenn Highway safety responses** to reduce burden on Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department
- Continue to **investigate public fears about safety** in our community, including narrowing in on crime statistics that give the full story and relating that story to the public
- Work with the Anchorage School District on a **review of the School Resource Officers** program
- Continue efforts for **wildfire mitigation and response**

Housing & Homelessness

- **Continue to fulfill the municipality's role in the Anchored Home plan:** work with nonprofit partners and funders to fund and complete projects, and promote community engagement with the work through outreach and communications
- Make **investments in affordable housing**, including general infrastructure investments, tax abatement and code changes that increase density and spur private development
- Create a **one-stop-shop for homelessness services**
- **Close the Sullivan Arena mass care shelter** once suitable alternatives are developed

Communications

- Complete a **fair and balanced Assembly reapportionment** of district boundaries
- Conduct **annual Title 28 election code review**
- **Continue to make the Assembly more transparent and accessible:** highlight accomplishments and changes, simplify website, add monthly e-newsletter, add public video access for committee meetings, and ensure fairness and accessibility
- Launch **Assembly Navigators** to help the public participate in Assembly meetings
- **Expand communication tools**, including non-traditional outlets
- *Long-term:* invest in digital tools to automate info delivery and public participation access

Quality of Life

- **Work with communities and constituents on neighborhood issues**, such as traffic calming, permits, and drainage
- Support schools in **addressing learning loss from pandemic & close the opportunity gap**
- Promote and continue to invest in **successes made possible by federal recovery funds**
- Continue to **advance equity initiatives** and launch the Assembly Equity Committee
- Advocate for **restoration of Eklutna River and Fish Creek**
- Reopen Sullivan Arena as a sporting and event venue

Infrastructure

- Secure state and federal **funding for the Port of Alaska** modernization
- **Maximize federal infrastructure funding** for municipal projects
- **Invest in transportation, trails, facilities & parks** through bonds and other funding to attract businesses and workers
- Utilize new AMATS scoring system to **prioritize transportation, pedestrian, bike and trail improvements and encourage connectivity**
- *Long-term:* create Chugiak-Eagle River Community Center, Muldoon Community Center and Library and support emergency medical services for Eagle River and Girdwood