ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2022-42

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY WAIVING CERTAIN FEES ESTABLISHED IN THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE AS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS MEASURE IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly understands that while the community is becoming safer from the COVID-19 pandemic and its threat to public health, there is a still a need to support and incentivize local development and construction, transportation services, and the restaurant and hospitality industries as the economy continues to recover from the detrimental impacts of the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, during 2020 and 2021, Mayor Berkowitz, Acting Mayor Quinn-Davidson, and the Anchorage Assembly, supported waiver of several permit, inspection and other fees established in the Anchorage Municipal Code to encourage and support local development and construction, transportation services, and the hospitality industry, as iterated below; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly previously passed AO 2020-46, as amended, waiving portions of Title 21 and Title 23 development fees; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly previously passed AO 2020-52 waving portions of Title 11 annual permit fees for taxis, vehicles for hire, and dispatching services; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly previously passed AO 2020-88 waiving permit fees for bed and breakfasts; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly previously passed AO 2021-19(S), as amended, waiving portions of Title 16 annual permits fees for hospitality industry and food permit users; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly received positive feedback from the community when it waived these fees in 2020 and 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is committed to supporting local residents and businesses, and encouraging responsible housing and other development; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality is anticipating receipt of approximately $52 million in the second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act funds by May of 2022; and

WHEREAS, reduction of these fees for the remainder of FY 2022 would be an appropriate and worthy use of a portion of these funds; and
WHEREAS, reduction of these fees for the remainder of FY 2022 is consistent with A New Day for Anchorage: the Anchorage Assembly Jobs Plan, which promotes investment in our infrastructure, building our local workforce and businesses, support of our families, and making government work for residents; now, therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Notwithstanding Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.03.020, all fees, except fines and penalties, appearing in Title 21, Land Use Planning, and associated Title 21, Land Use Planning Code of Regulations, shall be discounted by fifty percent (50%), to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 2. Notwithstanding Anchorage Municipal Code 23.10.104.15, all fees in Title 23, except fines and penalties or affordable housing projects already eligible for fee reduction in 23.10. Table 3-A, shall be discounted by fifty percent (50%), to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 3. Notwithstanding Anchorage Municipal Code section 11.10.160, the 2022 transportation inspection permit fees for taxis, vehicles for hire, and related dispatching services, appearing in Anchorage Municipal Code of Regulations, Sections 11.10.009.B.2 and B.3, shall be discounted by fifty percent (50%) effective immediately, to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.


Section 5. Notwithstanding Anchorage Municipal Code 16.60.110, all permit fees appearing in Anchorage Municipal Code 16.60.110 shall be waived for the year 2022 for hospitality businesses and certain food permit users—to include restaurants, bars, cottage food, mobile and fixed mobile units, kiosks, push carts, bakeries, caterers, schools and child care facilities in order to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. This waiver shall apply to all existing hospitality businesses and certain food permit users listed above, as well as new businesses applying for permits in 2022.

Section 6. The discounts and waivers in Sections 1 through 5 shall expire one year from date of passage and approval.

Section 7. The Anchorage Assembly recommends the Mayor and Administration reduce or waive fees for municipal services, permits, and licenses that are established by Municipal Departments and not in Code, such as park permit user fees, as an economic stimulus measure and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 8. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ________ day
of ______________, 2022.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk