



Submitted by: Assembly Chair Brawley
Assembly Member Perez-Verdia

Prepared by: Assembly Legal Services Office
For reading: June 9, 2026

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2026-62(S)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.50 TO ENACT A NEW SECTION 4.50.120 AND ESTABLISH THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, public safety in the Municipality of Anchorage includes the coordinated work of the Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department, Department of Law's Criminal Division, emergency response services, and the Anchorage Health Department, and encompasses responses to crime, behavioral health needs, homelessness, substance use, and overall community wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly established a Public Safety Advisory Commission in May 1995 to provide a forum for community input and advice on matters of public safety; and

WHEREAS, for many years the commission served the Municipality as a venue for community engagement, dialogue, and collaboration on public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, over time, concerns emerged that the commission was not consistently reflecting the diversity and broad perspectives of the Anchorage community or functioning in a way that fully met evolving needs of the Municipality and the public; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity has emerged to better reflect the full diversity and broad perspectives of the Anchorage community and to evolve the commission's structure to meet the Municipality's changing needs; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly allowed the commission to sunset and terminate on January 31, 2024, in order to create space for thoughtful redesign and renewed community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage does not have a consistent, structured, and accessible forum within local government for community voices and dialogue on public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has multiple boards and commissions focused on public health, including the housing, homeless and neighborhood development commission, the municipal health and human services commission, and the emergency medical service board; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Anchorage has **faced complex and deeply felt public safety challenges, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous People,**

1 substance use such as fentanyl and other opioids, domestic violence, gun
2 violence, sexual assault, child maltreatment, emergent mental health crises,
3 wildfires, and other community safety issues, underscoring the importance of
4 open dialogue and stronger partnerships between the public and public safety
5 systems ~~[experienced heightened public concern regarding public safety,~~
6 ~~including but not limited to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, officer-~~
7 ~~involved shootings, substance use challenges such as fentanyl, other~~
8 ~~opioids, methamphetamines, and other drugs, domestic violence, sexual~~
9 ~~assault, child maltreatment, and other community safety issues, which have~~
10 ~~contributed to increased strain in relationships between the public and public~~
11 ~~safety systems]; and~~

12
13 WHEREAS, community members have expressed a desire for greater
14 transparency, communication, and meaningful opportunities to engage with
15 public safety agencies, and have partnered with the Municipality in a shared
16 effort to create a community-focused public safety body built on mutual
17 respect and collaboration ~~[for several years expressed a need for greater~~
18 ~~transparency, accountability, communication, and meaningful opportunities~~
19 ~~to engage with public safety agencies, and have advocated to the Municipality~~
20 ~~for a public process to create a community-focused public safety body that~~
21 ~~works to achieve these goals]; and~~

22
23 WHEREAS, in response, the Anchorage Assembly established a Public Safety Task
24 Force through AR 2025-111 to engage community members, municipal partners,
25 and stakeholders in reimagining a public safety commission, understand our current
26 public safety systems, consider various alternative models, and develop
27 recommendations to the Assembly and Administration; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Task Force and community members conducted a six-month
30 public process from June to December 2025 that included meetings, workshops,
31 panels, written feedback, and direct engagement with community members,
32 including individuals with lived experience, to inform its recommendations; and

33
34 WHEREAS, throughout the Task Force process, the Assembly received regular
35 updates via Assembly Information Memorandums (AIM 153-2025, AIM 166-2025,
36 AIM 213-2025), as well as a final report with the Task Force's recommendations
37 (AIM 249-2025(A)); and

38
39 WHEREAS, the Task Force identified the importance of creating a commission that
40 is community-led, grounded in diverse perspectives, and capable of
41 strengthening transparency, communication, and trust between the public
42 and local public safety systems through genuine partnership ~~[informed,~~
43 ~~independent in perspective, and capable of strengthening transparency,~~
44 ~~accountability, and trust between the public and local public safety systems];~~
45 and

46
47 WHEREAS, the Task Force recommendations included a range of potential
48 authorities for such a commission, reflecting a desire for a more robust oversight
49 and accountability role in policy development and review, alongside advisory and
50 community engagement functions, as well as diverse representation on the
51 commission that meaningfully reflects the whole community; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly has carefully considered these recommendations alongside legal, operational, and sustainability considerations, including the role of volunteer commissioners, the structure of existing municipal systems, and the importance of maintaining clear boundaries with respect to personnel matters and active investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly finds that a balanced model—emphasizing advisory functions, robust community engagement, system-level review, and the ability to recommend independent evaluations—will provide meaningful accountability while ensuring clarity of roles, maintaining public trust, and supporting effective public safety operations; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly further finds that strengthening public safety requires both accountability and collaboration, and that trust is built through transparency, communication, and sustained community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly further finds that any new commission will need to take a broad interest in public safety, shifting its focus between the various public safety agencies while still responding to the immediate needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Municipality of Anchorage to establish a reimagined Anchorage Public Safety Partnership Commission that reflects these principles and provides a collaborative, durable, community-informed structure for engagement, review, and advisory input on public safety systems that brings community voices into decisions early, and fosters transparency through regular public engagement; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 4.50 is hereby amended to add a new section 4.50.120 as follows (*requiring no legislative formatting*):

4.50.120 Public safety partnership commission.

A. The Anchorage Assembly hereby establishes an Anchorage Public Safety Partnership Commission ("commission~~[Commission]~~") to serve as an independent, community-led advisory and review body that strengthens public safety, transparency, and trust between the Municipality and the community. The commission~~[Commission]~~ shall:

1. Advise the mayor and assembly ~~[Mayor and Assembly]~~ on public safety policy, systems, and strategies;
2. Participate in system-level reviews of public safety policies and practices;
3. Serve as a structured forum for community input and engagement, and sharing lived experiences; and

4. Promote transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement across public safety systems.

B. *Composition.* The commission shall be comprised of 14 seats appointed consistent with section 4.05.030. The 14 commissioners shall be comprised of the following: ~~[consisting of nine voting commissioners and five ex officio members].~~

1. *Nine voting community commissioners* ~~[with authority to vote shall be appointed consistent with section 4.05.020].~~

a. Nine members of the commission shall be members of the community ~~[total of the commission should]~~ encompassing a broad balance of perspectives and reflecting the full diversity of the Municipality, to include:

- i. Members of the community with lived experience interacting with law enforcement relevant to the purpose of the commission;
- ii. Subject matter experts in fields of study relevant to the purpose of the commission; and
- iii. Behavioral or mental health care professionals.

b. The nine community commissioners ~~[total composition of the commission]~~ shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- i. No more than three members may have been previously employed by the police department, fire department, office of emergency operations management, or department of law, in any jurisdiction, or be the immediate family member of anyone employed by these departments in any jurisdiction.
- ii. No member may be a current employee or immediate family member of a current employee of the Municipality of Anchorage ~~[may serve as a voting commissioner]~~.

2. Five voting public safety staff commissioners. Five members of the commission shall be public safety staff appointed by the mayor from the following departments and agencies:

a. The police department;

b. The fire department;

c. The office of emergency management;

d. The criminal division of the department of law or, with the consent of the Attorney General, the State of Alaska Anchorage District Attorney's Office; and

e. The department of health.

[Ex officio members and staff.

a. The following departments and agencies may designate a representative to act as an ex officio member of the commission:

i. The police department;

ii. The fire department;

iii. The office of emergency management; and

iv. The department of law.

v. The department of health.

b. Support. The commission shall receive administrative and staff support on a rotating basis from:

i. The police department;

ii. The fire department; and

iii. The office of emergency management.

This support shall rotate every six months, with each change in responsibility reported to the assembly in the form of a memorandum.

c. Legal counsel. The municipal attorney's office shall be counsel to the commission.]

3. Term.

a. Commissioners shall serve a term of three years, with appointments staggered so that not more than three member terms expire each year.

b. Commissioners are subject to a term limit of three consecutive full terms beginning when a board member has been appointed to a full three-year term. Time served by a commissioner during any initial partial term

less than three years shall not be counted in connection with the term limit.

- c. After serving three consecutive full terms, the same commissioner may continue to serve until either another commissioner can be appointed or 90 days have elapsed.

4. **Removal. For the public safety staff commissioners, the mayor may remove them if their employment in the relevant department or agency ends. Any commissioner [Commissioners]** may be removed from office in accordance with section 4.05.065. For the purposes of this section, "breach of public trust" shall include:

- a. Disclosure of confidential information to a third party;
- b. Non-compliance with MOA Code of Ethics per AMC 1.15; and
- c. Non-disclosure of material conflict of interest.

5. **Quorum. Notwithstanding section 4.05.080, a majority of the authorized seats of the commission, whether vacant or filled, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business, provided no fewer than six seats are filled by community commissioners.**

C. **Staff Support.**

1. **Support. The commission shall receive administrative and staff support from the police department.**
2. **Legal counsel. The municipal attorney's office shall be counsel to the commission.**

D. **Powers and duties.** The **commission**~~[Commission]~~ shall have the following powers and duties:

1. **Advisory Role.** Provide recommendations to and advise the **mayor and assembly**~~[Mayor and Assembly]~~ on public safety policy, systems, and strategies;
2. **Review.**
- a. Participate in system-level review of public safety policies, practices, and outcomes to identify trends, patterns, and systemic issues, and evaluate alignment with best practices and community needs.
- b. **To protect the integrity of active investigations and**

the rights of all parties, the commission's review role is limited to completed matters. [This body does not have the ability to conduct independent investigations.] The body may request an independent review of specific incidents after completion of investigations and conclusion of any personnel matters.

3. *Community Engagement.* Serve as a structured forum for community input and engagement by holding public hearings on any subject within the scope of its purpose. In furtherance of this duty, the commission's community engagement activities may additionally include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Participation by commissioners in operational tours and ride-alongs to develop a genuine understanding of daily public safety operations;
 - b. Reception of early briefings on upcoming policy changes, equipment purchases, training updates, or technology upgrades before final decisions are made; and
 - c. Scheduling and coordinating public open-house events to share information about commission activities, receive community input, and promote ongoing dialogue between the department and the public.
4. *Reporting.* Publish an annual report to the mayor and assembly, and make interim or specific recommendations to address immediate concerns.
5. *Authority.* To accomplish its duties, the commission, upon establishing a quorum, shall have authority to:
 - a. Request and receive briefings from departments;
 - b. Convene public hearings and receive testimony on subjects within the scope of its purpose; and
 - c. Access any file releasable as a public record under subsection 3.90.040C. Requests for records shall be in the form of a resolution approved by a majority of the commissioners.
6. *Limitations.* All powers and duties of the commission are conveyed to the body as a whole, and not to the individual commissioners. Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the following authority to the commission:
 - a. Engage with or seek information regarding active

investigations, in order to preserve investigative integrity and protect the rights of all involved parties
~~[Interfere with or in any way participate in active law enforcement investigations];~~

- b. Conduct independent investigations;
- c. Participate in or influence personnel disciplinary decisions, which remain the exclusive responsibility of department leadership ~~[Make disciplinary decisions or recommendations];~~
- d. Engage or interject in collective bargaining negotiations;
or
- e. Access personnel records not otherwise permitted by law.

E[D]. *Commissioner training.*

- 1. Each commissioner shall receive training in the following matters within six months of their appointment:
 - a. Fundamentals of the criminal justice system, to be provided by the department of law.
 - b. Procedures and operations of the police department and fire department.
- 2. The commission shall receive annual training from the board of ethics and the department of law on issues relevant to its mission.

F[E]. *Commission operation and communication.*

- 1. The commission shall meet no less than quarterly, and all meetings shall be publicly noticed pursuant to AMC chapter 1.25 and 4.05 except as follows.
- 2. The commission chair shall be selected from among the nine community commissioners by an affirmative majority vote of seated commissioners. The commission vice-chair shall be selected from among the five public safety staff commissioners by an affirmative majority vote of seated commissioners.
- 3. Within its first six months, the commission shall adopt bylaws and procedures governing its operations and the conduct of meetings. These bylaws and procedures shall be submitted for approval by the assembly as a regulation pursuant to section 3.40.040.

(AO No. 95-65(S-2), § 1, 4-30-1996; AO No. 99-90, § 1, expires 4-30-2002; AO No. 2004-96, § 1, 6-8-2004; AO No. 2011-64(S-1), § 5, 6-28-2011; AO No. 2014-70, § 2, 9-23-2014; AO No. 2017-61, § 1, 10-10-2017; AO No. 2017-167, § 1, 1-9-2018; AO No. 2020-54, § 1, 10-1-2020; AO No. 2023-69, § 2, 10-10-2023)

Editor's note: The Public Safety Advisory Commission was formerly a program advisory board under section 4.60.270 and allowed to sunset and was replaced by AO 2026-562 as a technical advisory board under this section. History notes include those to former section 4.60.270.

Section 2. Commission seats shall be filled sufficiently to fill a majority of the community commissioner seats, hold a quorum, and operate in a fully functioning capacity within eight months of passage and approval of this ordinance.

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 _____, 2026.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM
No. AM 387-2026

Meeting Date: June 9, 2026

From: Assembly Chair Brawley and Assembly Member Perez-Verdia

Subject: AO 2026-62(S) – AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.50 TO ENACT A NEW SECTION 4.50.120 AND ESTABLISH THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION.

The Substitute (S) version represents a substantial redesign of the original ordinance, reshaping both the structure and the mission of the proposed public safety body. Rather than simply updating the original framework, the S version reframes the commission as a partnership-driven, community-informed body with clearer roles, broader representation, and more explicit operational boundaries.

At its core, the S version maintains the commission's identity as an advisory board, while emphasizing collaboration between community members and public safety agencies. This shift is reflected throughout the findings section, which adds new language about Anchorage's recent public safety challenges, the need for "genuine partnership," and the importance of bringing community voices into decisions early. These additions broaden the ordinance's purpose and articulate a more forward-looking vision for public engagement. As such, the commission is renamed from Public Safety Commission to the Public Safety Partnership Commission. The new name reflects the intent that the commission has a collaborative, relationship-focused purpose and emphasizes partnership among residents, public safety agencies, and the Municipality.

One of the most significant structural changes is the restructuring of the commission itself. The S version changes the 5 public safety agency seats from ex officio (non-voting) to voting members. The community seats remain a majority (9 of 14) but allow all Commission members to fully participate. This redesign gives public safety agencies a formal voting role while preserving community leadership through a quorum rule requiring at least five community seats to be filled for the commission to conduct business. The S version also establishes a shared leadership structure. This model preserves community leadership in the Chair role while ensuring a designated administrative partner as Vice Chair will support communication, coordination, and collaboration.

The S version also expands and clarifies the commission's community engagement responsibilities. Beyond holding public hearings, the commission is now empowered

1 to conduct ride-alongs, receive early briefings on policy or equipment changes, and
2 host public open-house events. These additions reflect a more hands-on,
3 relationship-building approach to public safety engagement.

4
5 At the same time, the S version tightens and clarifies the limits of the commission's
6 authority, particularly around investigations and personnel matters. It adds explicit
7 language prohibiting engagement with active investigations, influencing disciplinary
8 decisions, or accessing personnel records. It also narrows the commission's review
9 authority to completed matters and emphasizes system-level evaluation rather than
10 case-specific oversight. These refinements are designed to protect investigative
11 integrity and maintain clear boundaries with existing municipal and legal processes.

12
13 Operationally, the S version replaces the original ordinance's rotating staff support
14 model with dedicated support to come from the Anchorage Police Department.

15
16 Lastly, the S version requires the commission to be seated with a majority of members
17 and fully operational within eight months of ordinance approval, providing a clear
18 timeline for implementation and launch.

19
20 Overall, the S version transforms the ordinance into a more structured, collaborative,
21 and community-centered model, balancing meaningful public engagement with clear
22 operational guardrails. It strengthens the commission's purpose, broadens its
23 membership, expands its engagement tools, and clarifies its limitations—creating a
24 more durable and functional framework for public safety partnership in Anchorage.

25
26 Respectfully submitted: Assembly Chair Anna Brawley,
27 District 3 – West Anchorage

28
29 Assembly Member Kameron Perez-Verdia,
30 District 3 – West Anchorage