



# Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

## Anchorage Assembly Leadership

January 13, 2022

Municipal Manager Amy Demboski  
632 W. 6th Ave., Suite 850  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Pending Questions; Assembly Worksession; Outstanding Records Request

Dear Municipal Manager Demboski:

At the Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Meeting of December 16, 2021, you committed to provide written responses to four questions:

1. *Health and Safety Issues.* The Administration indicated that as early as August 25 it became aware of health and safety issues in connection with the handling of fluoride by AWWU employees. To what extent are the health and safety issues ongoing?
2. *Protective Measures.* Prior to October 1, 2021, what protective practices and protocols did AWWU have in place with regard to the handling of fluoride by municipal employees?
3. *Subsequent Remedial Measures.* What new measures have been implemented since October 1 to address health and safety issues related to handling of fluoride by AWWU employees?
4. *OSHA.* Have there been any discussions with OSHA or AKOSH regarding the handling of fluoride by AWWU employees? If yes, when did those discussions occur, and what did they consist of?

Members also indicated a desire to hear directly from AWWU General Manager Mark Corsentino.<sup>1</sup> To date, the Assembly has not received your responses.

As you also know, Assembly Leadership on December 12, 2021 sent Mr. Corsentino a letter requesting a response to six questions.<sup>2</sup> On December 14, 2021, Mr. Corsentino responded by email that the letter was “being referred to the Muni Manager’s

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<sup>1</sup> See Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, at 27:07, 28:04, 29:50 (December 16, 2021), excerpts attached, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiLL7btXW3s>

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Corsentino (Dec. 12, 2021), attached.

office and Law to address.” To date, the Assembly has received no response to its December 14 letter from either your office, or the Department of Law. The questions in the letter were only partially addressed by Mr. Corsentino’s public statement of December 17, which raised still further questions.

We will schedule a worksession on or about January 21 for the Assembly to hear from Mr. Corsentino. We would appreciate receiving, before the meeting, written responses to the questions you committed to answer on December 16, and to the still-outstanding questions posed in the December 12 letter to Mr. Corsentino.

Separately, you are also likely aware that, since our records request of December 12, 2021 additional allegations related to Anchorage Police Department have surfaced in public media forums.<sup>3</sup> The subsequent allegations, if true, would also be of significant public concern and interest. We invite a response from the Administration.

Regarding the records request itself, on December 14, 2021, the Department of Law advised that “[i]t is our estimate that your requested records search may be ready by February 1, 2022.” On December 23, the Office of Information Technology asked Assembly Leadership to provide a list of targeted keywords, email accounts, and date ranges to expedite its production of emails. We did so on January 3, 2022. Please advise as to whether responsive emails can now be provided before February 1, 2022. We look forward to receiving the requested materials soon.

If you have any questions related to the requests outlined in this letter, we would be happy to discuss.

Sincerely,



Suzanne LaFrance  
Assembly Chair



Christopher Constant  
Assembly Vice Chair

Cc Mark Corsentino, AWWU General Manager  
Ken McCoy, Chief, Anchorage Police Department  
Marc Dahl, Director, Office of Information Technology  
Anchorage Assembly

Patrick Bergt, Municipal Attorney

Dean T. Gates, Assembly Counsel

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<sup>3</sup> For example, *see* Episode 46, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT... PODCAST (Dec. 24, 2021), available at: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1773395/9784928-with-all-due-respect-episode-46?t=0>

Excerpts of  
Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting  
(December 16, 2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiLL7btXW3s>

Beginning at Appox. Minute 27:07

Member Dunbar: If there were . . . issues with eye irritation and burning and that kind of thing, have there been any discussions with OSHA?

Manager Demboski: . . . I will research that and let you know if AWWU has raised these issues previously. And I'll be happy to share that with you.

Beginning at Appox. Minute 28:04

Member Kennedy: I would just like some clarification on what kind of protective measures have to be engaged when dealing with [fluoride]?

Manager Demboski: We will give you that information, Ms. Kennedy. We'll get you their safety protocols.

Beginning at Appox. Minute 29:50

Member Dunbar: Three questions for Ms. Demboksi and Ms. Kolby. [1] Are the health and safety issues with the employees ongoing? [2] Have there been any changes . . . as a result of these issues with burning eyes and throats and what have you? [3] Will Mr. Corsentino be available to speak to us at some point in the near future?

Manager Demboski: Thank you for those questions. . . Mr. Dunbar, I'm happy to give you responses in writing.



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## Anchorage Assembly Leadership

December 12, 2021

Mark Corsentino, General Manager  
Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility  
3000 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Fluoride System and AMC 26.40.050

General Manager Corsentino:

We write to determine whether efforts were recently made to frustrate or interfere with your compliance with Anchorage Municipal Code section 26.40.050, which requires the general manager of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility to supplement the fluoride content of the municipal water supply.<sup>1</sup>

On December 11, 2021, The Alaska Landmine published an article containing allegations that, if true, would be of significant public concern and interest.<sup>2</sup> The article's verbatim description of one of the three "incidents" is as follows:

"2. During a tour of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Util[i]ty (AWWU) facility, Bronson and senior staff allegedly stunned AWWU employees when they interfered with or deactivated the system that fluoridates the municipal water supply. As a result, sources say, the Anchorage water supply may have gone without fluoride for several hours. Fluoride is added to municipal water by law."

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<sup>1</sup> See Anchorage Municipal Code 26.40.050 *Fluoridation of water*:

- A. The manager of the utility is authorized and directed to continue supplementing the fluoride content of the water supply, to maintain a level of not more than 1.3 parts per million.
- B. All techniques used to apply fluoride, including testing the water before and after the addition of fluoride, determining the fluoride content, and testing for purity of the fluoride chemicals, shall, in all respects, comply with the rules and standards set by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.
- C. The personnel who will make the necessary analyses and apply the fluoride will be state-certified water treatment operators.

<sup>2</sup> See Jeff Landfield And Paxson Woelber, "APD Chief McCoy Announced Resignation In Response To Improper Demands By Bronson Administration, Sources Claim," THE ALASKA LANDMINE (December 11, 2021), available at: <https://alaskalandmine.com/landmines/apd-chief-mccoy-announced-resignation-in-response-to-improper-demands-by-bronson-administration-sources-claim/>

To better inform the Assembly as to the truth of these allegations, and whether and what Assembly response may be appropriate, Assembly leadership now requests your response to the following:

1. Mayor On-site. Has Mayor Bronson ever visited an AWWU facility that contains systems that can affect the fluoride content of water delivered to residents by AWWU? If yes, please identify the facility, or facilities, and additionally respond to requests 2 through 5, below.
2. Date. On what date did the visit, or visits, confirmed in your response to the prior question occur?
3. Actions. For each visit confirmed in your response to question 1, please describe any actions taken by the mayor, or a member of the mayor's staff, that: (a) could have affected the fluoridation of the municipal water supply and/or compliance with AMC 26.40.050; or (b) appeared to have been made with the intent of affecting the fluoridation of the municipal water supply. For each such action described, please indicate both the particular form of that action took (e.g., turning off a switch), and the possible impact the action could have, and did have, on the municipal water system. In particular, please address whether a fluoridation system was ever "deactivated" and, if so, by whom.
4. Comments. For each visit confirmed in your response to question 1, please describe any comments made by the mayor regarding the fluoridation of municipal water.
5. Persons present. To the extent that the mayor or a member of the mayor's staff took an action or made comments that requests #3 and #4, above, ask you to describe, please identify all persons who were present and could have witnessed the action(s) or heard the comment(s).
6. General response. To the best of your understanding, what aspects of the Alaska Landmine's description of the above-quoted "incident" are inaccurate? For each such inaccurate aspect, please describe why the aspect is inaccurate and, to the extent possible, provide a description of what actually occurred.

We would appreciate receiving your responses at your earliest convenience, and not later than in advance of the next meeting of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 14, 2021 at 6pm.

If you have any questions related to this request, we would be happy to discuss.

Sincerely,



Suzanne LaFrance, Chair



Christopher Constant, Vice Chair

Cc Patrick Bergt, Municipal Attorney  
Amy Demboski, Municipal Manager  
Dean Gates, Assembly Counsel  
Assembly Members