



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 287-2026

Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

1 **From: Assembly Vice Chair Brawley, Assembly Member Perez-Verdia, and**  
2 **Assembly Member Rivera**

3  
4 **Subject: AO 2026-XXX – AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL**  
5 **ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE**  
6 **CHAPTER 4.50 TO ENACT A NEW SECTION 4.50.120 AND**  
7 **ESTABLISH THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.**  
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9 The effort to reimagine the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) has been  
10 underway for over a year and is part of a larger community conversation about how  
11 to strengthen trust with our public safety systems, create a consistent forum for these  
12 discussions, and continuing to strengthen relationships between local government  
13 leaders, agencies, and the community we all serve.

14 Part of this year-long effort was the establishment of a Task Force (AR 2025-111),  
15 funded with a budget amendment in spring 2025 to support a facilitation contract,  
16 which met over the course of five months (June-November 2025) to explore the  
17 community's role in public safety, considered strategies for community engagement,  
18 and develop recommendations for the Assembly to consider in reimaging the  
19 PSAC. Its final report was published December 2025 (AIM 249-2025(A)). The  
20 Assembly and the public were briefed with regular updates (AIM 153-2025, AIM 166-  
21 2025, and AIM 213-2025), which provide more detailed context. Recommendations  
22 and regular reports can be found online at the Assembly's focus on Public Safety  
23 webpage ([https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-safety.aspx)  
24 [safety.aspx](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/focus-on-public-safety.aspx)), including documentation of who served on the Task Force, the meeting  
25 schedule and recordings, and other context.

26 In developing this proposed ordinance, the sponsors carefully considered not only  
27 the Task Force's recommendations, but also the months of deliberation on this topic;  
28 engagement with a variety of stakeholders; interviews with some former PSAC  
29 members; discussions with Municipal department staff including the Ombudsman; a  
30 review of models from other communities; and a comparison of the structure, duties,  
31 and requirements of existing boards and commissions in Municipal Code.

32 Ultimately, the new Public Safety Commission is proposed to remain advisory, but  
33 with an expanded role in policy review, public engagement, and opportunities to  
34 make policy recommendations. The sponsors also placed a strong focus on  
35 representation on the commission, with the goal of establishing guardrails for true  
36 community representation over time and preserving its role as a community-led body.  
37 The sponsors recognize that this proposal does not adopt every recommendation put  
38 forward by the Task Force but reflects a balanced approach that incorporates those

1 priorities alongside the perspectives of the whole community. This proposal  
2 represents a shift from the previous PSAC by adopting a systems-level approach to  
3 public safety, strengthening the commission’s role in policy review and  
4 recommendations, and establishing a structure that prioritizes community-led  
5 representation while ensuring access to subject-matter expertise.

## 7 SUMMARY OF POLICY CHOICES

### 8 **Purpose and Scope**

- 9 • The commission is established as a Technical Advisory Board instead of a  
10 Program Advisory Board. While it remains advisory in nature, this distinction  
11 reflects the complexity of public safety systems and recognizes that  
12 commissioners will develop greater expertise over time and engage in review  
13 and recommendations of a more technical nature than many advisory boards.
- 14 • The Commission’s purpose includes serving as a forum for community  
15 engagement and public input; providing a consistent space to hear community  
16 concerns; reviewing public safety policies at a systems level; and developing  
17 recommendations. As part of this role, the Commission may also review  
18 individual cases after the fact as part of broader role in making  
19 recommendations for systems improvements.
- 20 • This body is not granted the authority or responsibility for conducting  
21 investigations or receiving confidential information that is not publicly available,  
22 although the commission has the authority to request a third-party  
23 investigation, which is not standard practice but is a tool which has been used  
24 recently in some cases. Any review of individual cases is limited to publicly  
25 available information and is conducted solely for the purpose of identifying  
26 system-level improvements. The commission is not authorized to conduct  
27 investigations or make determinations of fault.

### 29 **Composition**

- 30 • The Commission is structured to ensure that community members serve as  
31 voting members, reinforcing its role as a community-led body.
- 32 • Five ex officio, non-voting seats are included to ensure consistent participation  
33 from key departments. These members serve as resources and provide  
34 subject-matter input, while maintaining a clear separation from voting on  
35 recommendations. The inclusion of non-voting ex officio members is intended  
36 to ensure consistent access to subject-matter expertise and improve  
37 coordination across departments, while preserving the commission’s role as  
38 an independent, community-led body.

- 1 • Voting membership is intended to consist of individuals from but not employed  
2 by the Municipality to preserve independence and a community-centered  
3 perspective.
- 4 • The structure is designed to promote broad and balanced representation over  
5 time to reduce the risk that the Commission becomes less representative and  
6 independent as commission appointments change. Limits on individuals  
7 currently working in the public safety field, as well as their immediate family  
8 members, are intended to maintain this balance, reflecting lessons learned  
9 from prior iterations of the Commission.
- 10 • Unlike subject-matter advisory bodies (e.g., the Geotechnical Advisory  
11 Commission), this Commission is not designed to require specific technical  
12 expertise, but rather to elevate community-based perspectives.
- 13 • Term limits are included to balance continuity with a schedule of regular  
14 turnover, ensuring both institutional knowledge and opportunities for new  
15 voices over time.

### 17 **Powers and Duties**

- 18 • The Commission's role in policy review is intended to be broad and flexible.  
19 Policy review is not required in all instances, nor is it limited to circumstances  
20 in which a department formally requests input. The Commission may  
21 proactively identify and review policies at its discretion.
- 22 • The annual reporting requirement is intended to be concise and accessible.  
23 This may take the form of a brief letter summarizing key activities, such as the  
24 number of meetings held, resolutions or recommendations issued, and other  
25 notable highlights. It is not intended to be a comprehensive staff report or  
26 require extensive data analysis, though additional information may be included  
27 where appropriate.
- 28 • The Commission is authorized to make records requests at no cost, consistent  
29 with applicable laws, and to hold public hearings in furtherance of its duties.

### 31 **Meetings and Procedures**

- 32 • The Commission may enter into executive session when legally appropriate,  
33 consistent with existing authority under AMC Title 4. This tool is expected to be  
34 used sparingly and only when clearly warranted and still retains the  
35 expectation that the information the Commission receives is public information,  
36 but may require discussion of sensitive legal matters.
- 37 • All actions must be taken by the Commission as a body. Individual  
38 commissioners are not authorized to make records requests, conduct  
39 hearings, or otherwise act on behalf of the Commission independently.

