

Draft Assembly Ordinance

**Amendment to AMC Chapter 2.40, *Community Councils*,
Regarding the 10-Year Review and Adjustment of
Community Council Boundaries**

Public Hearing Draft

PZC Case No. 2024-0100

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Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at
the Request of the Mayor
Prepared by: Planning Department
For reading: _____

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2024-____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2 SECTIONS 2.40.035: RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS; 2.40.040: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS; AND 2.40.090: COMMUNITY COUNCIL MAPS, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE 10-YEAR REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

(Planning and Zoning Commission Case No. 2024-0100)

WHEREAS, Anchorage's community council districts are recognized by the Municipality in the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC), Section 2.40.040, *Establishment of Community Councils*, and their boundaries are set forth in AMC Section 2.40.090, *Community Council Maps*; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040, *Establishment of Community Councils*, requires the Municipality to review all community council district boundaries every 10 years and seek public input as to whether any boundaries between community council districts should be adjusted; and

WHEREAS, these decennial boundary reviews are required to ensure that the geographic boundaries of community council districts adjust through the decades of neighborhood change to continue to reflect and represent actual neighborhood communities, and that all citizens continue to have opportunity to be represented by an active, engaged community council for their area; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040 establishes the criteria for delineating community council districts, which include to define community council districts so as to group residents within natural communities and recognize community desires as to boundaries; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040 establishes an open public process for these periodic reviews, in which the municipal Planning Department must obtain public input and the participation of the community councils in considering possible changes to community council district boundaries, and the Planning and Zoning Commission and Assembly each must solicit and consider the recommendations of community councils concerning changes to their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, these periodic boundary reviews and adjustments support the success of community councils in their function as neighborhood forums for participation and organized neighborhood advocacy and action; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality previously conducted comprehensive community
2 council boundary reviews in 2003 and 2014; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Planning Department, with the support of the Municipal
5 Ombudsman, initiated a new decennial review of community council boundaries in
6 2022 and 2023 with outreach to the Federation of Community Councils and the
7 officers of community councils, a widely distributed online questionnaire survey,
8 and the formation of a *community councils boundary advisory committee*; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Planning Department and boundary advisory committee held six
11 publicly noticed meetings to evaluate approximately 40 boundary study areas
12 identified by the public, applying the municipal boundary review criteria and inviting
13 public participation; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the recommended community council districts and boundaries in this
16 ordinance and accompanying maps in Exhibit A reflect the results of this public
17 process; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance and accompanying exhibits were released on October
20 1 for two months of public review and comment and a public hearing at the
21 Planning and Zoning Commission was scheduled for December 2, 2024; now,
22 therefore,

23
24 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

25
26 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 2.40, Community Councils, is
27 hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the chapter is not affected*
28 *and therefore not set out*):

29
30 **2.40.035 Recognition of community councils; special ex officio**
31 **community council recognition for Girdwood Board of Supervisors.**

32 *** **

33 B. *Girdwood recognized; special provision.* The municipality recognizes
34 the Girdwood Board of Supervisors as the community council, ex-
35 officio, which serves the Girdwood Community Association/Land Use
36 Committee boundary area depicted on Map 14[10] located in section
37 2.40.090.

38
39 *** **

40 (GAAB 5.75.020; AO No. 88-85, § 1, 7-19-88; AO No. 2003-75, § 1, 7-22-
41 03; AO No. 2003-113, § 1, 8-12-03; AO No. 2005-1(S-1), § 1, 4-12-05; AO
42 No. 2009-134, § 1, 1-12-10; AO No. 2014-3(S), § 1, 2-11-14)

43
44 **2.40.040 Establishment of community council districts.**

45 *** **

46 D. *Districts recognized.* The municipality recognizes the following
47 community council districts, which serve areas depicted on maps
48 located in section 2.40.090.

1. Abbott Loop;
2. Airport Heights;
3. Basher;
4. Bayshore/Klatt;
5. Bear Valley;
6. Birchwood;
7. Campbell Park;
8. Chugiak;
9. Downtown;
10. Eagle River;
11. Eagle River Valley;
12. Eklutna Valley;
13. Fairview;
14. Glen Alps;
15. Government Hill;
16. Hillside;
17. Huffman/O'Malley;
18. Mountain View;
19. Midtown;
20. Northeast;
21. North Star;
22. Old Seward/Oceanview;
23. [PORTAGE VALLEY;]
- [24.]Rabbit Creek;

1. A community council district boundary line on the map that follows a street, highway, or railroad or the meanderings of a river or creek on the map shall be interpreted as following the centerline of the street, highway, railroad, river, or creek.
2. A community council district boundary line on the map that follows a property line or section line on the map shall be interpreted as falling on that property or section line as it existed on [date of adoption][THE 22ND DAY OF JULY, 2003].
3. A community council district boundary line on the map that follows the boundary of a public land or facility that is shaded on the map shall be interpreted as falling on the boundary of that public land or facility.
4. Where a community council district boundary line on the map does not follow a road, stream, property boundary, or section line, and instead follows some other prominent physical feature such as a ridgeline between watershed valleys, the community council district boundary shall be interpreted as falling on the feature that is labeled alongside the boundary line.
5. The boundary of a community council that abuts, adjoins or is adjacent to either Turnagain Arm or Knik Arm of Cook Inlet extends seaward to mean high[LOW OR LOWER] water.

C. *Specific Community Council Maps Adopted.*

1. The community council district maps adopted by the assembly on [date of adoption][PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DATED JUNE 17, 2003, EMBODYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS' BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE, DATED JUNE 4, 2003, FOR MAP NOS. 1—12, MODIFYING THE MAPS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANCHORAGE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, DECEMBER 9, 2002, ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON JULY 22, 2003,] and subsequently with the date of the most recent adjustment on a map to community council district boundaries by assembly action noted:

a. Anchorage Bowl;

b. Chugiak-Eagle River;

- c. Turnagain Arm;
- d. Area Map 1 — Eklutna Vicinity;
- e. Area Map 2 — Northern Chugiak-Eagle River;
- f. Area Map 3 — Eagle River;
- g. Area Map 4 — Eagle River Valley and South Fork;
- h. Area Map 5 — Northwest Anchorage Bowl;
- i. Inset Map 5a — Government Hill, Ship Creek, and
Downtown;
- j. Inset Map 5b — Fairview;
- k. Area Map 6 — Northeast Anchorage Bowl;
- l. Area Map 7 — Turnagain and Spenard
- m. Inset Map 7a — Spenard Lake;
- n. Inset Map 7b — West Fireweed Lane;
- o. Area Map 8 — Midtown Vicinity;
- p. Area Map 9 — Campbell Creek Vicinity;
- q. Area Map 10 — Sand Lake and Taku Campbell;
- r. Area Map 11 — Bayshore/Klatt and Old
Seward/Oceanview;
- s. Area Map 12 — Hillside Anchorage Vicinity;
- t. Area Map 13 — Rabbit Creek and Bear Valley; and
- u. Area Map 14 — Girdwood.

- [A. MAP 1 — NORTHERN CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER;
- B. MAP 2 — CENTRAL CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER;
- C. MAP 3 — NORTHEAST ANCHORAGE BOWL;

1 D. MAP 4 — EAST-CENTRAL ANCHORAGE BOWL
2 (JULY 26, 2016);

3
4 E. MAP 5 — NORTHWEST ANCHORAGE BOWL (JULY
5 22, 2014);

6
7 MAP 5A — NORTHWEST ANCHORAGE BOWL:
8 BOOTLEGGERS COVE VICINITY;

9
10 MAP 5B — NORTHWEST ANCHORAGE BOWL
11 EAST DOWNTOWN VICINITY;

12
13 F. MAP 6 — MIDTOWN ANCHORAGE;

14
15 MAP 6A — MIDTOWN ANCHORAGE: SPENARD
16 LAKE VICINITY;

17
18 MAP 6B — MIDTOWN ANCHORAGE: WEST
19 FIREWEED LANE VICINITY;

20
21 G. MAP 7 — SAND LAKE AND TAKU/CAMPBELL;

22
23 H. MAP 8 — SOUTHWEST ANCHORAGE BOWL;

24
25 I. MAP 9 — HILLSIDE ANCHORAGE (JULY 26, 2016);

26
27 MAP 9A — HILLSIDE ANCHORAGE SECTION
28 36/BEAR VALLEY ELEMENTARY VICINITY (JULY
29 26, 2016);

30
31 J. MAP 10 — TURNAGAIN ARM;

32
33 K. MAP 11 — CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER;

34
35 L. MAP 12 — ANCHORAGE BOWL (JULY 26, 2016).]

36
37 2. The planning department shall maintain, for inspection by the
38 public, maps showing the community council district
39 boundaries.

40 *** **

41 (AO No. 2003-75, § 4, 7-22-03; AO No. 2004-27, § 2, 2-17-04; AO No. 2014-
42 3(S), § 1, 2-11-14; AO No. 2014-89, § 2, 7-22-14; AO No. 2016-80, § 4, 7-
43 26-16)

44
45 **Editor's note** — Section 2 of AO No. 2014-3(S) adopted February 11, 2014
46 states, "To implement this ordinance, each community council shall file with
47 the Municipal Clerk's Office new or amended bylaws in conformity with the
48 requirements of chapter 2.40, as amended by this ordinance, for

acceptance by the Assembly. Bylaws submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office will be reviewed by the Ombudsman for conformity with this chapter 2.40 prior to the Municipal Clerk's submission to the Assembly. To facilitate Assembly acceptance, the Ombudsman will notify a community council of any nonconformity requiring correction. Bylaws deemed by the Ombudsman in conformity with Chapter 2.40 will be presented by assembly information memorandum from the Municipal Clerk at the next assembly meeting following notification from the Ombudsman, or as soon as practicable."

Section 3 of AO No. 2014-3(S) states, "The filing period for new or amended bylaws is 120 days from the effective date of this ordinance, subject to an automatic extension for up to 90 additional days upon the community council filing written notice to the Municipal Clerk. In the absence of new or amended bylaws timely filed with the Municipal Clerk, the bylaws in Exhibit A shall be deemed in effect until acceptance of new or amended bylaws by the Assembly. In place of a provision not accepted by the Assembly, a comparable bylaw provision in Exhibit A may be substituted by the Assembly in the acceptance."

(Editor's note — Insert Exhibit A maps here, to replace the maps existing in AMC Section 2.40.090 prior to adoption of this ordinance.)

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk

(Planning and Zoning Commission Case No. 2024-0100)