



**Municipality of Anchorage**

**2017 Proposed  
General  
Government  
Operating Budget**

**Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor  
Anchorage, Alaska**



# Municipality of Anchorage

Office of the Mayor

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

September 30, 2016

Dear Residents:

The 2017 Municipal Budget continues to move Anchorage forward, despite the state's economic and budgetary challenges. The State's predicament highlights the Municipality's need to enhance its independence and self-sufficiency. Historically, the State and Municipality have operated as two meshed systems, developing and supporting infrastructure and services together. With increasing responsibilities shifted to the Municipality, Anchorage's fiscal system must adapt. In 2017, this means a combination of cuts and additional revenues to ensure we have the means to invest in public safety and provide local services that support a safe, secure, and strong Anchorage.

Between cost shifts from the state, increases to labor and health care costs, the SAP software project, and the continued refusal of the state's Regulatory Commission to allow the taxpayers of Anchorage to collect a dividend from the municipally owned ML&P, we began the 2017 budget process in a \$40 million dollar hole. Through a combination of cuts and cost saving measures, from fuel savings to fleet freezes, we cut costs and restrained growth. We will also continue to aggressively pursue shared services opportunities with the State, ASD, and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson to further reduce costs and retain the quality levels of service.

The 2017 Budget continues to prioritize rebuilding our police force. Our department must be right-sized, so that it is capable of pro-active law enforcement and crime prevention. In 2017, this translates to two full academies, a lateral academy to replace retiring officers, and the addition of 56 new officers.

Please review this proposed budget. Working together with the residents of Anchorage and the Assembly, I am confident we can refine it in a way that is consistent with the goals of improving public safety and fostering development.

Sincerely,

Ethan Berkowitz

## **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

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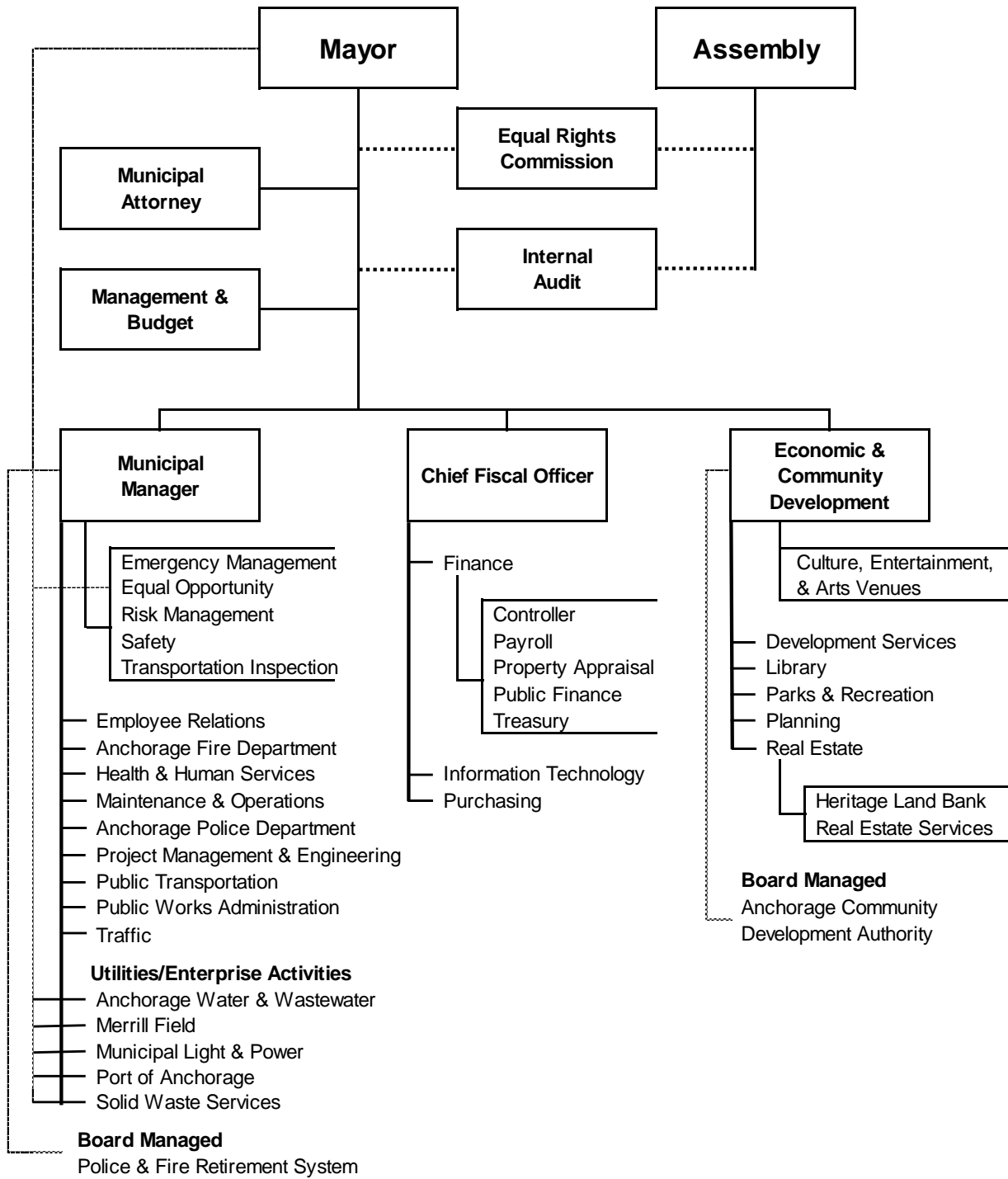
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# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Municipality of Anchorage  
Alaska**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**January 1, 2016**

Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

The award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

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