



Municipality of Anchorage

**2018 Approved
General Government
Operating Budget**

**Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor
Anchorage, Alaska**

September 30, 2017

Dear Neighbors:

The proposed 2018 Municipal Budget reduces residential property taxes, prioritizes public safety, and continues to insulate Anchorage from the State's inability to resolve its fiscal crisis. Even in the face of the State's economic and fiscal challenges, the Municipality has maintained a AAA bond rating, which has helped stabilize Anchorage's economy.

We began the 2018 budget process in a \$20 million dollar hole as a result of cost shifts from the State, increases to labor and health care costs, the lingering 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 filled that hole through a combination of cuts, cost saving measures and additional revenues. We will continue to aggressively pursue shared services with the State, the Anchorage School District, and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson to further reduce costs and retain quality levels of service.

Our budget strengthens core responsibilities to protect public safety and health. This is especially critical given the State cuts to State troopers, State prosecutors, and State corrections, as well the consequences of the opioid epidemic.

I am optimistic about our future. I invite you to review this proposal, ask questions and seek clarification from my administration. Your thoughts and guidance are important to this budget process.

Thank you,



Ethan Berkowitz

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ETHAN BERKOWITZ, MAYOR

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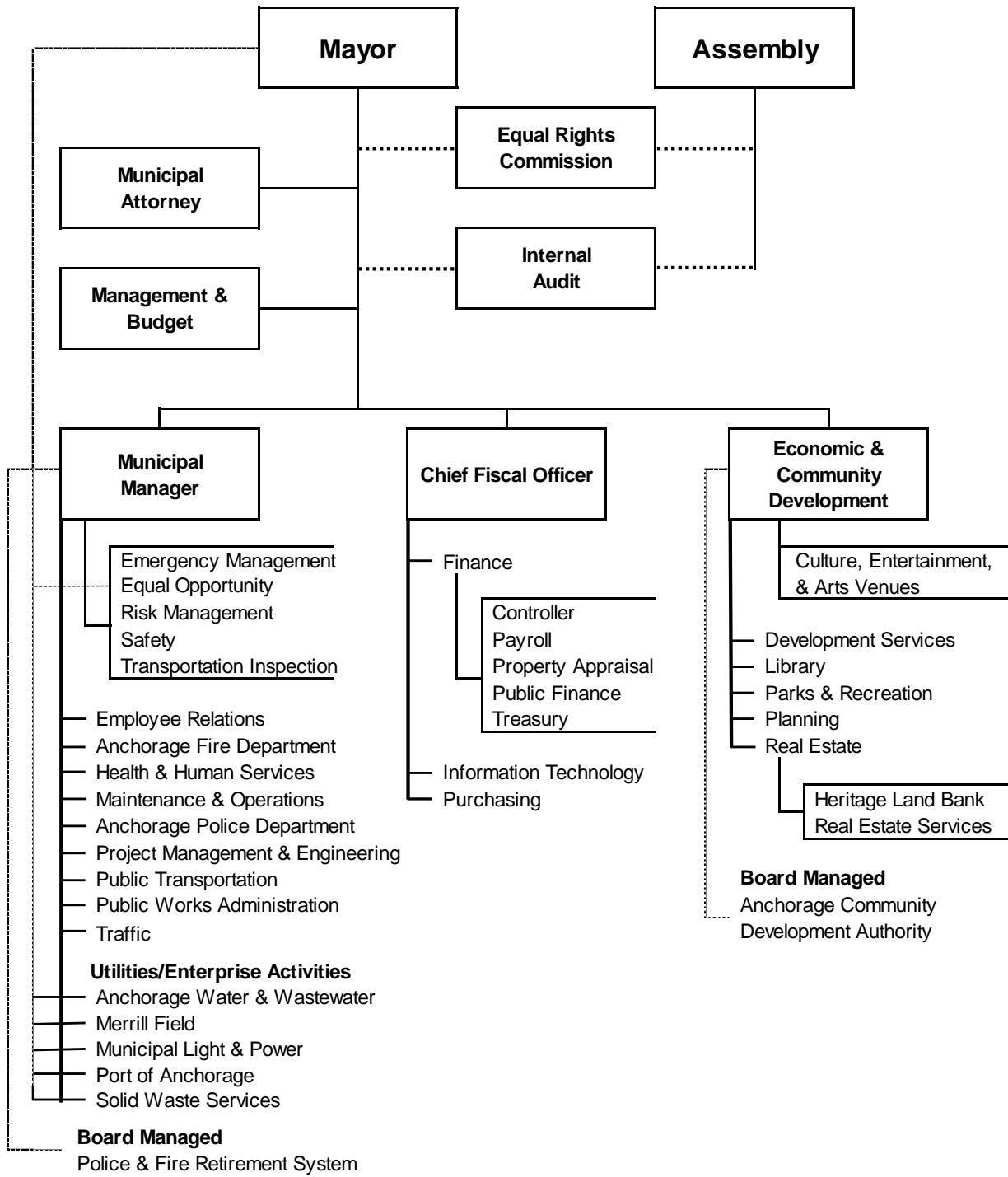
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GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Municipality of Anchorage
Alaska**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

January 1, 2017

Christopher P. Morill

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, 2017. 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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