

1 Approved: June 15, 2022

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3 **ANCHORAGE YOUTH ADVISORY COMISSION**
4 **YAC-R No. 2022-7**
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6 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL YOUTH ADVISORY**
7 **COMMISSION CENSURING ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE 2022-69 FOR**
8 **ITS SUPPRESSION OF YOUTH VOICES IN ANCHORAGE.**
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10 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 4.60.275 established the Youth
11 Advisory Commission (YAC) and the Youth Representative to the Assembly under the
12 executive branch of Anchorage’s government; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the YAC is to “Advise the mayor and assembly on issues,
14 services and programs from the youth perspective in our community...[AND] At their
15 own initiative, or in response from the mayor or assembly, make recommendations to
16 the mayor and assembly regarding policies, practices and legislation from the
17 youth perspective.”; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, a right reserved to the YAC is to nominate youths for appointment as youth
19 representative and an alternate to the Anchorage Assembly; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly currently has the ability to send the YAC
21 nominations for the Commission and the Youth Representative seat; and,

22 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly currently has the ability to serve as a check on
23 the YAC through attending regular meetings and through the appointment process for
24 the Youth Representative; and,

25 **WHEREAS**, most Anchorage Assembly Members have not yet chosen to use any of
26 these outlets to become involved with the YAC, learn more about the YAC, or express
27 their concerns; and,

28 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Advisory Commission was not consulted or asked of their
29 opinion of AO 2022-69; and,

30 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Ordinance 2022-69 will strip the YAC of their right to elect
31 Youth Representative nominees and will give that power to the Assembly; and,

32 **WHEREAS**, there are logical fallacies surrounding AO 2022-69 as Anchorage Assembly
33 Members are not youth in Anchorage, and therefore are incapable of knowing who the
34 youth of Anchorage would desire to have represent them; and,



1 **WHEREAS**, AO 2022-69 claims it “will widen the pool of potential participants” for the
2 Youth Representative seat, however this is false as Assembly Members as well as over
3 40 youth organizations were already consulted for potential participants; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, AO 2022-69 does not include any change or provision which would benefit
5 the youth of Anchorage; and,

6 **WHEREAS**, through AO 2022-69 the Anchorage Assembly is demonstrating actions
7 which utilize governmental authority to unjustly suppress youth voices; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, AO 2022-69 was introduced in a manner which would appear as an
9 attempt to undermine both the youth of Anchorage and the YAC—the governmental
10 body to which this AO pertains; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, when the Anchorage Assembly was presented Youth Representative
12 nominations under the former executive administration, they confirmed them after one
13 month, yet under the current administration, the Assembly took five months; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, while the YAC was functioning closely with the previous executive
15 administration, the Anchorage Assembly did not possess any concerns, yet the
16 Assembly now finds many problems with the YAC and Youth Representative working
17 with the executive branch on youth related matters; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Advisory Commission strongly believes in serving all the youth of
19 Anchorage through collaboration with all local resources to include the Assembly,
20 Mayor, non-profits, and more; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Advisory Commission condemns any attempt to take away the
22 bipartisan and impartial environment the YAC seeks to foster; and,

23 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Advisory Commission would like to focus on bettering the lives of
24 Anchorage’s youth rather than being forced in to partisan politics; and therefore,

25 ***Now, therefore by the Youth Advisory Commission, be it resolved:***

26 *The Assembly should consider the following steps:*

- 27 1. *On the June 21st Regular Assembly Meeting, the Assembly will move forth with*
28 *action to prevent AO 2022-69 from passing, and*
- 29 2. *Consult the Youth Advisory Commission on any future changes to code which*
30 *pertains to its duties, and*
- 31 3. *Hold a joint Assembly and YAC meeting to establish a working relationship to*
32 *move toward collaboration which will benefit all youth of Anchorage.*

33 *The mayor should consider the following steps:*

- 34 1. *If AO 2022-69 should pass, veto the Anchorage ordinance.*

1 2. *Continue to support the YAC in their efforts to make Anchorage a better place for*
2 *all youth.*

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6 Approved and signed on the 15 day of June 2022.

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9 *Rebekah Dunfee*

10 Chair Dunfee