

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2020-122

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE**
2 **MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.20.030 TO PROVIDE THAT A MAYOR-ELECT**
3 **TAKES OFFICE EARLIER THAN JULY 1 WHEN THE MAYOR’S SEAT IS**
4 **VACANT AT THE TIME OF A REGULAR, SPECIAL, OR RUNOFF ELECTION**
5 **THAT FILLS THE VACANCY.**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz resigned from office effective October 23, 2020;
8 and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Home Rule Charter of Anchorage, Article VII, Section 7.02(c)
11 requires that if the office of mayor becomes vacant, it “shall be filled at a regular or
12 special election held not less than 90 days from the time the vacancy occurs” and
13 that “the chair of the assembly shall serve as acting mayor until a successor is
14 elected **and takes office.**” (emphasis added); and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the process to transition from the current mayor to mayor-elect is set
17 forth in Anchorage Municipal Code section 3.20.030 and establishes that the mayor-
18 elect takes office “on July 1, or as soon thereafter as practicable, following his [sic]
19 certification as mayor-elect at a regular municipal election or a runoff election,” and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, that Code section refers to the mayor continuing to serve until the
22 mayor-elect takes office, and either does not contemplate a vacancy with an acting
23 mayor serving, or intends an acting mayor to also serve until July 1 before returning
24 to the person’s role as Chair of the Assembly; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly desires that the transition period before the mayor-elect
27 takes office should end sooner than July 1, allowing the Chair/Acting Mayor to return
28 to their Assembly role and representation and the person the people elected
29 areawide to be Mayor may assume office sooner; now, therefore,

30
31 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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33 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 3.20.030 is hereby amended to
34 read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set*
35 *out*):

36
37 **3.20.030 - Qualifying of mayor; transition period for mayor-elect.**

- 38
39 A. The mayor shall be deemed qualified and shall take office by taking
40 and subscribing to the oath required by section 17.07 of the Charter
41 on July 1, or as soon thereafter as practicable, following the [HIS]
42 certification as mayor-elect at a regular municipal election or a runoff

