Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at the Request of the Mayor

Prepared by: Dept. of Law

For reading: September 14, 2021

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA AO No. 2021-84

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY EXTENDING THE SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 15.95 TO ALLOW RETAIL SELLERS TO PROVIDE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS DURING COVID-19.

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 15.95, Plastic Shopping Bags, requires sellers to not provide or distribute plastic shopping bags and to charge a fee for alternative bags; and

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19 many businesses in Anchorage have switched to curb-side pick-up or delivery, which may prevent individuals from using their reusable bags; and

WHEREAS, many businesses have chosen to limit interactions between employees and customers by not permitting use of personal bags or containers in their establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly passed AO 2021-15 on February 23, 2021 suspending enforcement of Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 15.95 until August 31, 2021;

WHEREAS, an extension of the suspension would be beneficial to allow retailers to continue to utilize their existing stock of plastic bags and to continue limiting contacts between employees and customers; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

<u>Section 1.</u> Anchorage Municipal Code section 15.95.020 is hereby amended to read as follows (the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out):

15.95.020 Prohibition on providing or distributing plastic shopping bags; exceptions.

E. Suspension. Enforcement of this chapter is suspended until May 1, 2022 [AUGUST 31, 2021].

<u>Section 2.</u> This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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