

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 233-2021

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

1 **From: Assembly Member Allard**

2
3 **Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REGARDING**
4 **THE MAYOR'S AND ACTING MAYOR'S ORDERS AND**
5 **REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE PROCLAMATION OF**
6 **EMERGENCY (COVID-19).**
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8 In this Administration's effort to mitigate COVID-19, there has been tunnel vision on
9 that one goal, which began as "slow the spread" to protect hospital capacity and
10 now has no clearly defined endpoint. This myopic view of the local response to the
11 virus pandemic has neglected the risks and collateral damages of these
12 unprecedented public health policies. We may never know the cost of our actions
13 any more than we can know what would have happened if we did nothing. But we
14 can focus on what we do know. What we do know is who is most vulnerable to this
15 disease. We know how those people and their immediate families can protect
16 themselves. We know treatments are available. We know that the vaccine is now
17 widely available in Alaska. We know anyone over 16 years of age who wants to be
18 vaccinated has had that opportunity. We know how to adapt and be flexible, giving
19 options for curbside service, distance learning, or working from home. We know how
20 any level of lockdowns affect our economy. We know our individual responsibilities
21 and what risks each of us is comfortable with taking. We know new strategies and
22 new cleaning habits from the hard work of our community's public health experts.
23 We know our hospitals are not and never were overwhelmed.
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25 The death rate has dramatically declined, from 12 deaths in January 2021, to 7 in
26 February, to 1 in March. The State has been functioning without an emergency
27 declaration since February 14, 2021. Our neighboring local governments, with little
28 to no health mandates in place, have had similar or better outcomes. I and my fellow
29 Assembly Members were elected as the legislative branch of this local government
30 for the Municipality of Anchorage, to serve as the checks and balances on the
31 executive branch's actions, on the Administration.
32

33 A state of emergency with its concomitant decision-making power and authority in
34 the Acting Mayor's seat allowed to unnecessarily continue beyond the conditions for
35 an "emergency" as defined is not the intent of our Charter or our state Constitution,
36 nor is it in the best interest of the individual. This overbearing government control
37 over individuals and businesses is a slippery slope and a danger to our freedom.
38 We do not know if or when COVID-19 will no longer be a threat, but it is a greatly
39 diminished threat to our health today. We have had over a year to create the
40 systems needed to mitigate this virus after removing the state of emergency.
41 Terminating the Emergency Proclamation or the Emergency Orders does not mean
42 the pandemic is over. It does not mean we suddenly do nothing. It means this
43 Administration has done its job preparing and implementing community protection
44 measures. It means the community is ready for individual risk assessments and

1 freedom to make our own choices, and that our businesses and schools have
2 mitigation strategies in place. It means we accept our limited role as an elected
3 government, and move forward addressing the broader needs of our community
4 beyond COVID-19. It is past time for people to make their own medical and personal
5 decisions.

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7 I encourage my colleagues to join me to vote to terminate the Emergency Orders
8 and Regulations restricting our community. And to join me to vote to terminate the
9 Emergency Proclamation, rather than extend it as the Administration requests by
10 separate resolution.

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12 Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
13 Respectfully submitted: Jamie Allard
14 Assemblywoman, District 2 - Chugiak/Eagle River
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