



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 158-2021

Meeting Date: March 9, 2021

From: Assembly Member Allard

Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY (COVID-19) AND THE MAYOR'S AND ACTING MAYOR'S ORDERS AND REGULATIONS ISSUED THEREUNDER.

It is time to terminate the Mayor's Proclamation of Emergency in the Municipality of Anchorage. We do not live in a vacuum where Covid-19 is our only threat. We all understand this and know that it is important to address the multifaceted needs of the community. Moreover, we were elected not as the medical authorities of the people, but to serve their interests in managing the community. The people want their autonomy and freedom restored, as well as the balance of powers.

In response to EO-19, Governor Dunleavy said, "With vaccines readily available, low case counts, and after nearly a year of experience managing this virus, I encourage cities across our state to return to normal as quickly and safely as possible."

The State's Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and Chief Medical Officer on February 14, 2021 recommended that people with symptoms of Covid-19 be tested once their symptoms start. For asymptomatic people, they only recommend testing for those with close contacts of confirmed patients, healthcare workers in hospitals and congregate living facilities, residents of congregate living facilities, people coming into remote communities where Covid-19 is circulating, or patients who may be at increased risk of infection. They do not recommend testing athletes before competitions, nor routine testing for athletes.

Why does Anchorage have more stringent restrictions than the State recommendations and does not follow the State's testing recommendations?

I believe the actions of the Acting Mayor, former Mayor, and this body have been done in goodwill with intent to protect people. But it is time to ask ourselves, did it work? Or did the extreme reactions cause more harm than good?

Let's examine the numbers. As of March 4th, per 100,000 residents, Anchorage had 55 deaths and 242 hospitalizations. By contrast, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has had 33 deaths and 93 hospitalizations. Lock downs don't work. Our communities are similar, and are in a socio-economic symbiotic relationship. Yet, while Anchorage residents have suffered economically, emotionally, mentally, and physically under lockdowns, the Mat-Su people have been thriving. Restrictive mandates don't work. You can find the same results comparing any other locked down area to any other areas free of lockdown restrictions of similar demographics, such as a comparison of California to Florida.

1
2 It is time to end the Mayor's Emergency Declaration, restore the regular system of
3 government, promote individual responsibility to follow health and safety
4 recommendations, and get back to normal.

5
6 Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel

7 Respectfully submitted: Jamie Allard
8 Assemblywoman, District 2 – Chugiak-Eagle River
9