




Municipality of Anchorage
Mayor Dave Bronson

Office of the Mayor

Date: October 13, 2021

To: Anchorage Assembly

From: Mayor Dave Bronson 

Subject: Veto of Emergency Ordinance No. EO 2021-3

Pursuant to Section 2.30.100 of the Anchorage Municipal Code and Section 5.02 of the Municipal Charter, I hereby veto EO 2021-3 passed at the Assembly's Regular Meeting of October 12, 2021.

I have reviewed the emergency ordinance and heard the Assembly's justifications for and against the same. The Assembly introduced and passed this emergency ordinance on the same night, effectively shutting down public testimony on the issue of mask mandates. They blatantly ignored the people's right to petition their government. The Assembly openly displayed their scorn for the public process, which is fundamental to self-government and self-governance.

The Assembly's decision to impose a mask mandate, after assuring the public there would be continued public testimony, and under the cover of darkness is, at its core, ignoring the fundamental right of citizens to participate in a meaningful way on matters of community interest and importance. The Assembly ignored data demonstrating a significant decrease in COVID-19 cases in Anchorage, misrepresented to the Public their ability to weigh in on this issue, and expanded the role of government into the private lives of every Anchorage resident.

With the widespread availability of vaccines and a growing number of treatments available to those sick with COVID-19, Anchorage should be moving away from top down government mandates. We should be optimistic about the downward trend of cases and the widespread availability of testing, the expansion of monoclonal antibody treatments, and the growing intervention medicine treatments. Instead, with this mandate, the Assembly is stoking widespread fear in an attempt to scare the public into submission.

Alaska's constitution expressly provides the right of the people to privacy, a right that shall not be infringed. Our right to privacy is expressed, and its protections are broader in scope than those implied under the federal system.

The reasons Alaskans wrote the right to privacy into our constitution, and ratified the same by overwhelming vote, is our home's longstanding tradition of respecting privacy and individuality. At the core concept of Alaska's liberty is the notion of personal immunity from government control and the right to be let alone.

The Assembly's actions demonstrate a disregard for the public, the public process, and the privacy of all residents.