

Submitted by: Assembly Members
Quinn-Davidson, Rivera and Zaletel
Prepared by: Office of the Ombudsman
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's
Office
For reading: February 7, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2023-17

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.30.141 TO INCLUDE**
3 **JUNETEENTH AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, BUT NOT SEWARD'S DAY,**
4 **AS PAID MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS, AND CHANGING WASHINGTON'S**
5 **BIRTHDAY TO PRESIDENTS' DAY, REQUESTING THE SAME TO BE**
6 **RECOGNIZED HOLIDAYS IN LABOR AGREEMENTS, AND WAIVING**
7 **PERSONNEL RULES COMMITTEE REVIEW.**
8

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally-celebrated commemoration of the
11 end of slavery in the United States, recognizing June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers
12 arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce the Civil War had ended and that all
13 enslaved people were free in accordance with the Executive Order of President
14 Abraham Lincoln. It took nearly two and a half years after President Abraham
15 Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation for word to reach the last group of
16 enslaved people in Texas that they were free; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, for many African Americans, Juneteenth is our nation's second
19 Independence Day, and throughout history Juneteenth has been known by many
20 names, including Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation
21 Day. On June 19, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation establishing
22 Juneteenth as an official federal holiday that recognizes and honors the historic,
23 unique journey of African Americans; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson has introduced Senate Bill 22 to establish
26 Juneteenth Day as a State of Alaska holiday; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, codifying Juneteenth as a paid municipal holiday is a long-overdue
29 acknowledgement of the historic journey of African Americans, the majority of whom
30 were enslaved and not included in the freedoms promised with the July 4, 1776
31 proclamation of national independence or the freedoms and protections guaranteed
32 by the United States Constitution in 1789. Establishing Juneteenth as a paid
33 municipal holiday will also acknowledge the struggle for equality experienced by all
34 persons of color in our community and nation; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples' Day has become widely observed throughout the
37 United States in lieu of Columbus Day, to "recognize Indigenous peoples' resilience
38 and strength as well as the immeasurable positive impact that they have made on
39 every aspect of American society," as President Biden stated in the first
40 proclamation by a United States President commemorating the day; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, former Governor Bill Walker and former Mayor Ethan Berkowitz both

1 declared the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2015 but
2 neither of these measures were permanent, nor did they establish an official
3 holiday.; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality has taken strides to recognizes the impact of
6 Indigenous peoples, particularly Alaska Native peoples, on the daily lives of the
7 residents of Anchorage, with the Anchorage Assembly adding a land
8 acknowledgment to the start of all Assembly meetings, formally recognizing a
9 government-to-government relationship with the Native Village of Eklutna, and
10 changing our Municipal naming policy to ensure Indigenous names are given
11 priority; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage has had an on-again-off-again
14 relationship with Seward's Day, with initial adoption in 1979, removal in 1999, and
15 re-adoption in 2014; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, changing "Washington's Birthday" to "Presidents' Day" will align the
18 Municipality of Anchorage with the State of Alaska, and more than twenty other
19 states, by establishing a municipal holiday that celebrates all of our nation's
20 presidents; now, therefore
21

22 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

23
24 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 3.30.141 is hereby amended to
25 read as follows:
26

27 **3.30.141 Recognized holidays with pay.**

28
29 The following days will be recognized as holidays with pay for all
30 employees in regular full-time and regular part-time positions.
31

32 New Year's Day.

33
34 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (third Monday in January).

35
36 Presidents' Day [WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY] (third Monday in
37 February).

38
39 Memorial Day (last Monday in May).

40
41 Juneteenth (June 19).

42
43 [SEWARD'S DAY (LAST MONDAY IN MARCH) EFFECTIVE 2015.]

44
45 Independence Day.

46
47 Labor Day.

48
49 Indigenous Peoples' Day (Second Monday in October).
50

Veterans Day (November 11).

Thanksgiving Day.

The day after Thanksgiving.

Christmas Day.

One personal holiday.

(AO No. 79-195; AO No. 91-95; AO No. 96-70, § 2, 5-7-96; AO No. 99-64, § 1, 4-27-99; AO No. 99-101, § 1, 7-13-99; AO No. 2014-32(S), § 11, 2-25-14)

Section 2. 2023 Holidays shall be observed as scheduled until April 1, when the new holidays approved by this ordinance will be implemented. Executives and Non-Represented Employees' holidays will be adjusted without further Assembly action required.

Section 3. The Administration is requested and urged to confer with bargaining units for represented employees to grant the same recognized holidays as in this ordinance as soon as possible by Administrative Agreement as outlined in AMC section 3.70.130B.

Section 4. Notwithstanding AMC section 3.30.018, this ordinance shall not require review by the personnel rules committee prior to the public hearing and Assembly action.

Section 5. Section 3 of this ordinance is effective immediately upon passage and approval. The remainder of this ordinance shall be effective April 1, 2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk