



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## Assembly Memorandum

No. AM 217-2024

Meeting Date: March 5, 2024

1 **From:** MAYOR

2  
3 **Subject:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE  
4 SECTION 15.20.020 PROHIBITING HOMELESS CAMPS WITHIN  
5 10 BLOCKS OF ANY LICENSED HOMELESS SHELTER,  
6 PROHIBITING HOMELESS CAMPS WITH MORE THAN 50  
7 PEOPLE, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO  
8 ABATEMENT PROCEDURE, PROVIDING FOR 24-HOUR  
9 ABATEMENT OF WASTEWATER PUBLIC NUISANCES AT  
10 HOMELESS CAMPS, PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATED SAFE  
11 PARKING AREAS FOR VEHICULAR HOMELESS CAMPING,  
12 AND DEFINING PROHIBITED CAMPING AS A CRIMINAL  
13 MISDEMEANOR.  
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16 Mayor Bronson would like to address homeless camps and make Downtown  
17 Anchorage a vibrant business and tourism hub for Anchorage. He has watched  
18 other Pacific Coast cities, such as San Jose and Tacoma, regroup after the 9<sup>th</sup>  
19 Circuit's rulings in *Martin v. Boise* and *Johnson v. Grants Pass*. After looking at  
20 these other cities, and listening to the voices of Anchorage residents, business  
21 owners, visitors and tourists, Municipal employees, and especially those who live  
22 and work in Downtown Anchorage, the Mayor proposes the accompanying  
23 legislation, which will change the current camp abatement regime in Municipal  
24 Code in five ways.

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26 First, the definition of "prohibited campsite" in AMC 15.20.020B.15 has been  
27 expanded to include (1) any camping on public land within 10 blocks of a  
28 licensed homeless shelter, or (2) any campsite with over 50 individuals. This  
29 follows the City of Tacoma's practice regarding camping near homeless shelters.  
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31 Second, the "exigent circumstance" abatement provision is expanded to include  
32 not only serious risks to human life and safety, but also posted "No Trespassing"  
33 areas, school facilities, the Downtown Area, and within one hundred feet of a  
34 designated park, private residence, or utilities and critical infrastructure.  
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36 Third, the Anchorage Health Director is given authority to determine that, when a  
37 wastewater nuisance exists at or near a campsite, abatement may proceed  
38 within 72 hours of notice.  
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1 Fourth, a new chapter of Code is added to provide “designated safe parking  
2 areas” for vehicle homeless camping. This program would permit homeless  
3 persons to live in vehicles without fear of impoundment, provided that the vehicle  
4 is in a designated safe parking area. This follows the City of Tacoma’s program,  
5 and gives the Anchorage Health Director and Planning Director authority to issue  
6 permits for this purpose.

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8 Fifth, a class B misdemeanor offense is added to disorderly conduct for  
9 “knowingly camp[ing] in a prohibited campsite.” This follows the City of Tacoma’s  
10 “Use of Public Property” ordinance, which passed in October 2022 and provides  
11 for a misdemeanor offense for persons who violate the camping and personal  
12 property storage aspects of that ordinance.

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14 There are no economic effects associated with this ordinance and so a summary  
15 of economic effects is not provided.

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18 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

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20 Prepared and Approved by:	Mario Bird, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office
21 Concur:	Sharon Lechner, Acting OMB Director
22 Concur:	Alden Thern, CFO
23 Concur:	Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager
24 Respectfully submitted:	Dave Bronson, Mayor

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