

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at the  
Request of the Mayor

Prepared by: Mayor's Office

For reading: (always blank)

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AO No. 2024-26(S)**

1 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION**  
2 **15.20.020 PROHIBITING HOMELESS CAMPS WITHIN 10 BLOCKS OF ANY**  
3 **LICENSED HOMELESS SHELTER, PROHIBITING HOMELESS CAMPS WITH**  
4 **MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO**  
5 **ABATEMENT PROCEDURE, PROVIDING FOR 72[24]-HOUR ABATEMENT OF**  
6 **WASTEWATER PUBLIC NUISANCES AT HOMELESS CAMPS, AND**  
7 **PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATED SAFE PARKING AREAS FOR VEHICULAR**  
8 **HOMELESS CAMPING[, ~~AND DEFINING PROHIBITED CAMPING AS A~~**  
9 **~~CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR~~].**

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12 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to plan for approximately 100 vehicles being used for  
13 habitation, and

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15 **WHEREAS**, issues such as sanitation and water continue to be public health and  
16 safety concerns, and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, to offer clarity to and manage the expectations of the public about  
19 abatement timelines, policies, and practices, and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, to provide campers a healthy and sanitary avenue to dispose of  
22 refuse and waste, and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, to further our commitment to the health of those most vulnerable in  
25 our community; NOW, therefore,

26  
27 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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29 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code 15.20.020 is hereby amended to read as  
30 follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

31  
32 **15.20.020 -- Public nuisances prohibited; enumeration.**

33  
34 A. No person shall allow, maintain or permit a public nuisance to exist  
35 or allow, maintain or permit recurrence of a public nuisance. Such  
36 existence, allowance, maintenance, permitting or recurrence of a  
37 public nuisance is a violation of this chapter.

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39 B. Public nuisances include, but are not limited to, the following acts  
40 and conditions:

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15. Prohibited campsites. A prohibited campsite is an area where one or more persons are camping on public land in violation of section 8.45.010, chapter 25.70, within 10 blocks of any licensed homeless shelter as defined in chapter 16.125, any ~~congregate~~ campsite with over 50 ~~individuals~~ tents, huts, lean-tos, or other shelters, or any other provision of this Code. A prohibited campsite is subject to abatement by the municipality. The municipal official responsible for an abatement action may accomplish the abatement with the assistance of a contractor, association, or organization. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following procedure may be used to abate a prohibited campsite:

\* \* \*

b. A notice of campsite abatement shall identify whether it is a 24-hour wildfire danger area notice, 72-hour notice, 1[5]0-day campsite notice, ten-day zone notice, [OR] notice to quit, or a 72-hour wastewater nuisance notice; and the subsequent abatement activities of the municipality shall comply with the respective procedure for removal of a prohibited campsite and the personal property thereon:

\* \* \*

iv. ~~[FIFTEEN]~~ Ten days' notice, campsite abatement. The municipality may post a prohibited campsite with a notice stating all personal property not removed within 1[5]0 days of the date and time the notice is posted may be removed and disposed of as waste, unless sooner claimed or disposal authorized by the owner. At the expiration of this 1[5]0-day period the personal property may be disposed of as waste if no person has either given notice or removed property in accordance with this section.

h. Exceptions:

\* \* \*

iii. ~~[The Municipality may abate prohibited campsites irrespective of the procedure detailed above in AMC 15.20.020B.15.a-g. on municipal land in limited circumstances. This shall include prohibited campsites on municipal land:~~

(A) — Where exigent circumstances

posing a serious risk to human life and safety exist (AMC 15.20.020B.15.h.iii.);

(B) — When the area where a Prohibited Campsite is located is clearly posted with no trespassing signage, no camping signage, or as not being open to the public, including posting of closed hours if not continuously closed to the public as defined in AMC 15.20.020B.15.h.iv;

(C) — When the prohibited campsite is located is within the grounds of a school facility;

(D) — Located within the Downtown Area as defined in AMC 14.70.170A.; and

(E) — Located within one hundred feet (100') of:

(i) — An area of a park designated for a particular purpose (including but not limited to trail, dog park, frisbee golf, etc.);

(ii) — A private residential property; or

(iii) — A utility box or other public or private critical infrastructure (including but not limited to airfields, snow disposal sites, telecommunication and electrical infrastructure, etc.).]

Where exigent circumstances posing a serious risk to human life and safety exist, the abatement of a campsite may proceed without prior notice. Personal property removed under this exception shall be stored in accordance with subsection 15.20.020B.15.c., to the extent reasonable and feasible under

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**the circumstances.**

[WHERE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES POSING A SERIOUS RISK TO HUMAN LIFE AND SAFETY EXIST, THE ABATEMENT OF A CAMPSITE MAY PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. PERSONAL PROPERTY REMOVED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE STORED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH B.15.C., TO THE EXTENT REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.]

- iv. **A prohibited campsite on**[WHEN THE] public land [where a prohibited campsite is located is]clearly posted with no trespassing signage, no camping signage, or as not being open to the public, including posting of closed hours, **[THE ABATEMENT OF THE CAMPSITE MAY PROCEED] may be abated** without additional notice. **[, AND AFTER THE O] Occupants** of the prohibited campsite **[ARE]shall be** provided at least one hour to remove their personal property. Personal property removed under this exception **[MAY ONLY] shall** be disposed of in accordance with chapter 7.25 **and [OR]** sub[**PARAGRAPH]section 15.20.020**B.15.c.

[ \*\*\* \* \* \* \* ]

- v[**ii**]. **[Wastewater.]** When the Anchorage Health Director **[has]** determines**[ed]** that a wastewater nuisance exists at or near a prohibited campsite, **the municipality may post a wastewater nuisance with notices describing the area in which prohibited campsites may be abated after 72 hours. Personal property removed under this exception shall be stored and disposed of in accordance with chapter 7.25 and subsection 15.20.020B.15.c. [by removal and storage of personal property.]** Notices shall be posted in accordance with AMC **subsection 15.20.020B.15.b.v.(A).**

(GAAB 16.68.110, 18.15.020, 18.15.030, 18.20.030, 18.20.060; CAC 8.10.020, 8.10.050; AO No. 113-76; AO No. 78-48; AO No. 79-63; AO No. 93-173(S), § 3, 2-24-94; AO No. 95-42, § 3, 3-23-95; AO No. 2001-145(S-1), § 12, 12-11-01; AO No. 2003-130, § 4, 10-7-03; AO No. 2009-83(S), § 2, 7-7-09; AO No. 2010-43(S), § 1, 6-22-10; AO No. 2010-63, § 1, 9-14-10; AO No. 2011-52, § 1, 4-26-11; AO No. 2016-81(S), § 2, 8-25-16 ; AO No. 2017-119(S) , § 2, 11-9-17; AO No. 2017-130(S) , § 1, 12-5-17; AO No. 2018-53(S) , § 1, 6-26-18; AO No. 2018-61 , § 1, 7-31-18; AO No. 2018-118 , § 2, 1-1-19; AO No. 2019-94(S) , § 2, 8-6-19)

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2 **Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code Title 16 is hereby amended to add a new  
3 chapter as follows:

4  
5 **16.128 – Designated safe parking areas.**

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7 **16.128.010 Purpose.**

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9 In recognition of the need for temporary housing for homeless persons  
10 living in vehicles, it is the purpose of this section to allow religious, non-  
11 profit, and governmental organizations to use property owned or controlled  
12 by them as designated safe parking areas, while preventing harmful effects  
13 associated with such uses, including crime or public nuisance.

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15 **16.128.020 Permit.**

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17 A. In order to allow sponsoring religious, non-profit, and governmental  
18 organizations to establish designated safe parking areas on  
19 qualifying property, a permit must be obtained from the Anchorage  
20 Health Department and Planning and Development Services.

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22 (1) The Director of Planning and Development Services is  
23 authorized to issue permits for designated safe parking areas  
24 only upon demonstration that all public health and safety  
25 considerations have been adequately addressed, and may  
26 administratively adjust standards upon providing findings and  
27 conclusions that justify the requirements.

28  
29 (2) No designated safe parking area may contain more than 50  
30 vehicles. This provision may be waived for good cause  
31 shown by the Anchorage Health Department and Planning  
32 and Development Services.

33  
34 B. No abatement of a vehicle legally parked in designated safe parking  
35 area. A vehicle legally parked within a designated safe parking area  
36 is not a public nuisance and may not be impounded subject to AMC  
37 9.30.020, 9.30.260, or any other provision in this code.

38  
39 *[NOTE: The previous Section 3 dealt with AMC 8.30.120. This is now deleted*  
40 *from the S version. There is no proposed change in AO 2024-26(S) to current*  
41 *AMC 8.30.120.]*

42  
43 **Section 3.** Anchorage Municipal Code ~~[8.30.120]~~ **16.125.065** is hereby  
44 amended as follows ~~[(the remainder of the section is not affected and~~  
45 ~~therefore not set out)]~~:

46  
47 **16.125.065 - Minimizing neighborhood impacts.**

48  
49 A. *Shelter commitment.*

50  
51 1. Each shelter shall have a "Good Neighbor Policy" that

outlines its commitment and policies to reduce impacts on surrounding areas by its operations, loitering of its clients, trash and litter, and other activities.

*B. Municipality of Anchorage Commitment.*

- 1. No tolerance for unlawful loitering, soliciting in streets or roadways, or unauthorized camping within **[ONE-QUARTER MILE] ten blocks** of a licensed overnight or day shelter. Municipal law and code enforcement shall support this commitment as resources allow, subject to federal, state and local law.

(AO No. 2021-55(S-1) , § 1, 6-22-21)S

**~~[8.30.120 – Disorderly conduct.~~**

**~~A. It is unlawful for any person to:~~**

~~\*\*\* \*\*~~

**~~9. Knowingly camp in a prohibited campsite, as defined in AMC 15.20.020B.15.~~**

~~\*\*\* \*\*~~

**~~C. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.~~**

~~(GAAB 18.05.010; AO No. 89-52; AO No. 95-149(S), § 1, 11-2-95; AO No. 98-59(S), § 1, 5-19-98; AO No. 2003-73, § 3, 4-22-03; AO No. 2014-42, § 3, 6-21-14)]~~

**Section 4.** This ordinance shall be effective on May 1, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## Assembly Memorandum

No. AM - 2024

Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 **From:** MAYOR

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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 72[24]-HOUR  
9 ABATEMENT OF WASTEWATER PUBLIC NUISANCES AT  
10 HOMELESS CAMPS, AND 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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15  
16 The S-Version of AO 2024-26 was drafted after further internal discussion by the  
17 Administration, meetings with Assembly members, and other external feedback. It  
18 changes AO 2024-26 in six ways.  
19

20 First, the initial ordinance proposed that any campsite on an area of public land  
21 with over 50 “individuals” would be a prohibited campsite. Internal feedback  
22 indicated that counting individuals would be difficult, if not impossible, to conduct.  
23 AO 2024-26(S) therefore substitutes “tents, huts, lean-to’s, or other shelters” for  
24 “individuals” in Section 1  
25

26 Second, current code allows 15 days’ notice for campsite abatement under AMC  
27 15.20.020B.15.b.iv. Internal feedback from Parks and Recreation and Health  
28 Department suggested that the 15 days should be reduced to 10 days to make  
29 notice requirements uniform with the 10 day zone abatement notice in AMC  
30 15.20.020B.15.b.v. AO 2024-26(S) makes this change in Section 1.  
31

32 Third, prohibiting camping within a 10-block radius of a licensed shelter currently  
33 conflicts with the ¼-mile radius currently prescribed in AMC 16.125.065B.  
34 Therefore, in Section 2, AO 2024-26(S) proposes to change the ¼-mile to 10  
35 blocks for uniformity.  
36

37 Fourth, internal discussions indicated that the class B misdemeanor offense for  
38 “knowingly camping in a prohibited campsite” was problematic, as was adding  
39 more conditions under which the Municipality could immediately abate irrespective

1 of current Code procedure. Therefore, AO 2024-26(S) excises these portions of  
2 Section 2 and Section 3.

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4 Fifth, at Page 2, line 5 – added “congregate” to indicate that the 50 tents, huts,  
5 lean-tos, or other shelters are intended to be counted only if within some proximity  
6 to each other. This is proposed in lieu of defining any particular radius.

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8 Sixth, the following “code clean-up” amendments were offered by the Municipal  
9 Attorney’s Office:

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11 Page 3, lines 49-50 –changed “paragraph” to “exception” and  
12 “subparagraph B.15.c” to “subsection 15.20.020B.15.c.” to be consistent  
13 with current Code and Assembly Document Preparation Guidelines.

14  
15 Page 4, lines 13-26 – changed language to be consistent with current Code,  
16 Assembly Document Preparation Guidelines, and Alaska principles of  
17 statutory interpretation.

18  
19 Page 4, lines 30-31 – removed introductory header because it is not  
20 consistent with other subsections.

21  
22 Page 4, lines 36-42 – added language consistent with other subsections  
23 clarifying that the Municipality will store and dispose of personal property in  
24 accord with other applicable sections of Code.

25  
26 There are no economic effects associated with this ordinance and so a summary  
27 of economic effects is not provided.

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30 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

31  
32 Prepared and Approved by: Mario Bird, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office  
33 Concur: Sharon Lechner, OMB Director  
34 Concur: Alden Thern, CFO  
35 Concur: Kent Kohlhase, Municipal Manager  
36 Respectfully submitted: Dave Bronson, Mayor  
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