

Municipal Clerk's Office
Amended and Approved
Date: **September 12, 2023**

Submitted by: Assembly Members Perez-Verdia,
Quinn-Davidson, and Volland
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office
(S) Submitted by: Assembly Members Perez-Verdia,
Volland, and Rivera
(S) Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For hearing: September 12, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2023-48(S)*, As Amended

1 **AN ORDINANCE: REPEALING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC)**
2 **CHAPTER 3.97, NAMING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, OTHER FIXED**
3 **FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PLACES; ENACTING AMC CHAPTER 1.80, NAMING**
4 **OF PUBLIC PLACES; AMENDING CHAPTER 4.60, PROGRAM ADVISORY**
5 **BOARDS, TO ADD SECTION 4.60.035, PUBLIC NAMING THE MUNICIPALITY**
6 **AND AMEND SECTION 4.60.090 ACCORDINGLY; AND AMENDING SECTION**
7 **21.03.185, STREET NAME ALTERATIONS.**

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9 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) chapter 3.97 establishes a
10 procedure for the naming of municipal buildings and public places, including a
11 process for establishing the membership of naming panels; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, AMC section 3.97.020 states that when considering the naming or
14 renaming of facilities, the preferred practice is to give a public place a name with
15 historical, cultural, or geographical significance considering location, function, prior
16 Indigenous name, and natural features; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, despite these broader guidelines, current practice appears most often
19 to result in naming public places after individuals selected by naming panels
20 consisting of persons interested in a particular name, including grieving family
21 members; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, as a result, very little recognition of traditional Indigenous place names
24 has occurred in practice, and naming often lacks consistency, continuity, or vision;
25 and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the naming of a public place should be thoughtful, intentional, and
28 reflect community vision and values; now, therefore,

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30 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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32 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 3.97 is hereby repealed. In
33 accordance with AMC section 1.05.050B., a copy of the existing text of Chapter 3.97
34 being repealed is attached as Exhibit A.

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36 **Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code Title 1 – General Provisions, is hereby
37 amended to add a new chapter to read as follows (*legislative formatting markup not*

* The (S) version incorporates substantial reordering of the original AO 2023-48, which was a repeal of current code, and therefore legislative formatting is NOT used in Sections 1 to 3.

used):

Chapter 1.80 - NAMING OF PUBLIC PLACES

1.80.010 – Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Public place –means any building, facility, municipal or park lands, owned by or under the control of the municipality, including interior and component spaces integral to the whole, and excluding Anchorage School District buildings and facilities.

Traditional Indigenous place name means the Dena’ina Athabascan name or other Alaska Native name for a place generally accepted amongst the members of the Native Village of Eklutna or the culturally appropriate Tribe or village.

1.80.020 – Policy

- A. The municipality hereby establishes a policy and set of procedures to govern the naming and renaming of a public place, including renaming of streets and roads.
- B. The selection of a name that is purposeful, suitable, and symbolic should be approached in a systematic, fair, and consistent way. This process can generate opportunities to build community identity and awareness, create a lasting public dialogue, express appreciation, and be reflective of the municipality’s vision for itself.
- C. When considering the naming or renaming of a public place, the preferred practice shall be to impart public property with a sense of historical, cultural, or geographical significance considering location, function, the traditional Indigenous place name, or natural features. Considerations in the selection of a name shall include:
 - 1. The existing name of any public place, including a traditional Dena’ina or other Indigenous place name. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase a sense of neighborhood.
 - 2. Influences from adopted plans or a municipally sponsored process (such as 1% for Art at the same location, The Municipality Annual Plan, or mission/vision, Title 21 subdivision platting, etc.), or an established vision for the municipality or an area of the municipality in which the public place or real property exists.

3. Natural features of the area, including but not limited to geographical, geological, and anthropological features.
4. Events, both contemporary and historic.
5. Cultural significance to a group or groups of people.
6. Positive impact of an individual or group on the local community and the history of the municipality in an ongoing and transformative way. When considering a person or persons, the commission shall:
 - a. Identify the person or persons' connection to the municipality if considering an outstanding local, state, national or international civic leader(s).
 - b. Consider the historical significance of the person and or connection with the municipality.
 - c. Limit honorary naming to a single use of an individual's name.
 - d. Honor individuals through naming of internal areas and features integral to public spaces as opposed to naming a public building, facility, or park for a person.
 - e. Limit posthumous naming in honor of a person or persons to no earlier than thirty-six (36) months posthumously

1.08.030 – Public Naming Commission.

- A. *Purpose.* There is established a public naming commission to implement the standards for public naming.
- B. *Composition and terms of members.*
 1. The commission shall consist of nine voting members,
 2. Each member shall be appointed pursuant to chapter 4.05.
 3. Unless otherwise provided in this section, the commission shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 4.05.
- C. *Qualifications.* To the extent available in the municipality, the commission members shall include:
 1. A member with a background in history, anthropology, or archaeology.
 2. An Alaska Native culture advisor with knowledge of local Indigenous history and culture.
 3. A person recommended by the Native Village of Eklutna.
 4. A member with expertise in historic preservation.
 5. A member with experience in diversity, equity, and inclusion work.
 6. Four community at large members residing in different areas

and neighborhoods in the municipality.

D. *Powers and duties of the commission.* Duties of the public naming commission shall include:

1. Responsibility for implementing the naming policy of the municipality through review of all requests and actions for compliance with this policy and honorary naming criteria under this chapter.
2. Review of proposed names and public places, including holding public hearings, and identifying additional potential names or public places as appropriate to the request. The panel will assess all requests once a year as part of the annual naming plan.
3. Identifying public places or real property of significance that have not yet been named.
4. Collaborating with the department of public works to recommend names for facilities in development.
5. Meeting at least once annually for the sole purpose of naming implementation goals and strategy, and monthly as needed for the purpose of regular commission business. The panel will assess all requests once a year as part of the annual naming plan.
6. Preparing an annual naming plan and submitting to the assembly by August 31 of each year, which shall include:
 - a. Activities of the prior year.
 - b. The commission's statement of vision for naming of public places.
 - c. A list of public places proposed for consideration of naming or renaming in the coming year.
 - d. A summary of naming requests from the public from the prior year and proposed disposition of those requests, including how the proposed names meet the requirements in section 1.80.020.

E. *Current naming panels.* Naming panels selected prior to the effective date of this code shall continue until the naming is completed.

1. The new Chapter 1.80 enacted by Section 2 of this ordinance shall apply to any new naming project initiated per AMC 1.80.040A. after the effective date of this ordinance. Naming of public place projects initiated by memorandum of the mayor or resolution of the assembly prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall follow the procedures of Chapter 3.97 being repealed by this ordinance until their conclusion or final action.

1.08.040 – Naming Procedure

A. *Initiation.* A naming project may be initiated by:

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1. Referral to the commission from the mayor or the assembly identifying the proposed public place.
2. Submittal of a request by application from the public or by a resolution of a community council.
3. Recommendation from the public naming commission in accordance with public input and the approved annual plan.

B. *Public Process and Review:* Public process shall include:

1. Interested persons, including family members of a deceased person, may request to appear and speak before the commission.
2. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing to present the proposed naming recommendation and receive public comment. **Notice of the public hearing pursuant to Chapter 1.25 shall be published at least 21 days prior, and also be given to the community council where the public place(s) under consideration is located. The commission shall accept written comments at least until its public hearing is closed and may elect to receive written comments for additional time and provide notice if it does.**
3. For a public place under the jurisdiction of a parks and recreation board or commission, including the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Commission, the Girdwood Valley Service Area Board of Supervisors, and the Eagle River-Chugiak Park and Recreational Service Area Board of Supervisors, the commission shall request an advisory opinion from the board or the commission.

C. *Recommendation and Approval.*

1. The commission shall prepare a memorandum advising the mayor and the assembly and outlining relevant information regarding the commission's recommendation.
 - a. The commission's memorandum shall include reference to the policy in section 1.08.020 and how the commission considered those factors in its recommendation.
 - b. Every effort shall be made to adhere to the naming policy established in section 1.08.020. All recommendations involving departure from section 1.08.020 must include a detailed rationale for the departure.
 - c. The commission's memorandum shall be attached to an assembly memorandum for consideration by the assembly.
 - d. If a majority of the commission members are unable to agree, a divided recommendation of the commission

may be submitted for assembly consideration

- 2. The assembly shall decide the name or renaming of a public place by approval of the commission’s memorandum, with or without amendment, after a public hearing held at least 27 days after introduction to ensure appropriate information dissemination to the public prior to final action by the assembly.

1.08.050 - Renaming.

- A. Renaming shall not apply to historic names of designated landmarks listed on a local, state or on the National Register of Historic Places, unless supported by the landmark owner or the local historic preservation entity for the municipality, state or federal government.
- B. Initial naming of streets and roads is governed by Title 21. Renaming of streets and roads is subject to the requirements of section 21.03.185, as well as public safety considerations.
- C. This chapter shall not apply to the naming or renaming of a public space that was donated to the municipality contingent upon assignment of a specific name or to any facility constructed or purchased from money or property donated to the municipality for the specific purpose of securing a name for the facility.

Section 3. Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 4.60 – Program Advisory Boards, is hereby amended to add a new section to read as follows (*legislative formatting markup not used*):

4.60.035 - Public naming commission.

- A. There is established a public naming commission to implement the standards for public naming set forth in Chapter 1.80.
- B. The commission shall be staffed by the Clerk’s office.
- C. This commission shall terminate on October 14, 2026, unless affirmatively continued by the assembly in accordance with section 4.05.150.

Section 4 Anchorage Municipal Code section 4.60.090 is hereby amended as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and not set out*):

4.60.090 - Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Commission.

- D. The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the mayor and assembly in all matters pertaining to parks and recreation within the service area, including but not limited to:

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5. Advising the public naming commission [PANEL] on selections of names for park sites and park or recreation facilities under the provisions of chapter 1.80 [3.97].

(AO No. 84-28; AO No. 95-223, § 1, expires 1-20-1998; AO No. 98-25, § 1, expires 3-7-2001; AO No. 99-7, § 1, 1-26-99, expires 1-20-02; AO No. 2001-189, § 2, expires 1-20-05; AO No. 2004-96, § 1, 6-8-04; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 8, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-129, § 1, 10-9-07; AO No. 2011-64(S-1), § 5, 6-28-11; AO No. 2017-98 , § 2, 8-8-17)

Section 5. Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.03.185 is hereby amended as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and not set out*):

21.03.185 - Street name alterations.

A. *Generally.* A street name alteration may be proposed by petition or by a government agency. The petition or proposal shall be submitted to the department. The department shall reject any street name alteration that does not conform to the standards of section 21.08.030, Design Standards, and any applicable regulations. The criteria established in AMC chapter 1.80 [3.97.025] for honorary renaming shall apply.

(AO No. 2015-131, § 2, 1-12-15)

Section 6. Notwithstanding AMC section 21.03.210, the text amendment to Title 21 in Section 5 of this ordinance is cosmetic only and shall not require Planning and Zoning Commission review.

Section 7. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 12th day of September, 2023.



Chair

ATTEST:



Municipal Clerk



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 688-2023

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

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From: Assembly Members Perez-Verdia, Volland, and Rivera

Subject: AO 2023-48(S): AN ORDINANCE: REPEALING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC) CHAPTER 3.97, NAMING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, OTHER FIXED FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PLACES; ENACTING AMC CHAPTER 1.80, NAMING OF PUBLIC PLACES; AMENDING CHAPTER 4.60, PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARDS, TO ADD SECTION 4.60.035, PUBLIC NAMING COMMISSION AND AMEND SECTION 4.60.090 ACCORDINGLY; AND AMENDING SECTION 21.03.185, STREET NAME ALTERATIONS.

Following introduction of the original ordinance, member Quinn-Davidson’s term ended, and member Rivera joined as a sponsor. In this (S) version the new group of sponsors reorganized the original ordinance, and included minor substantive changes, including the following:

- “Anchorage” was replaced with “Municipality” throughout the ordinance because this is areawide, to clearly include Eagle-River, Chugiak, and Girdwood.
- The policy and purpose sections were combined under one section “policy.”
- The sections creating the public naming commission were combined in one section with a corresponding amendment to Title 4 adding the new commission.
- A member recommended by the Native Village of Eklutna was added to the commission membership.
- A member with real estate background was deleted.
- The four community at large members are to reside in different areas and neighborhoods in the municipality.
- The commission’s processes for initiation of naming requests, referrals, public process, and submission to the Assembly for final action were laid out more clearly.

Because the (S) version involves substantial reorganization (moving of paragraphs) making legislative formatting unhelpful, legislative formatting is not included in Sections 1 – 3, but remains in sections 4 – 7 which were not reorganized and do not contain any changes from the original submitted ordinance.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel’s Office

Respectfully submitted: Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Member
District 3 – West Anchorage

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Felix Rivera, Assembly Member
District 4 – Midtown

Daniel Volland, Assembly Member
District 1 – North Anchorage

*Clerk's Office corrected a typo correcting the word "familiar" to "familiar."