

Assembly Report, Austin Quinn-Davidson | December 2022

- Members Dunbar, Volland, and I brought forward an appropriation for \$400,000 for security and cleanup around the Sullivan Arena, including Chester Creek trail.
- We passed the FY23 (beginning January 1) budget at our last meeting (\$587 million dollars). Mayor Bronson had proposed an increase to the budget from last year by about \$20M, and through the Assembly Amendment process, we added an additional \$3.6M. Nearly half of the \$3.6M (\$1.5M) was allocated for additional snow plowing and clearing, including \$500,000 specifically allocated for sidewalk clearing. The additional snow plowing funds will also allow for one additional bowl-wide haul out of snow, making more room on our neighborhood streets. Other additions included three positions at the Fire Department, security for Assembly chambers (a very small increase), and a \$50,000 increase to the Senior Center, which had remained flat funded for multiple years despite inflation. Member Dunbar and I put together an omnibus package that made passing these important additions fairly simple and streamlined. We also made a number of changes in the alcohol tax, the most important change being restoring the Mobile Crisis Team, which Mayor Bronson had proposed cutting. This team responds to mental health calls and has been extremely effective. The Assembly and I during my tenure as Acting Mayor established this successful program, which is able to handle 95% percent of its calls without APD assistance. Having AFD do this work leaves APD better able to respond to crime calls. Further, having AFD play this role saves the city money, as through that department we are eligible to seek Medicare reimbursement funds for a percentage of operations. We also appropriated funds out of the alcohol tax for a strategic plan to ensure that we are using the funds efficiently and appropriately and of course consistent with what the voters intended.
 - ➔ the mayor vetoed some items included in the budget. I expect the Assembly to override most or all of the line items. We will likely take up that vote next Tuesday.
- Final note on the budget: I worked with Marnie Isaacs and TCC to bring forward an addition to the roads bond: resurfacing and painting of Forest Park Drive. This addition passed and was not vetoed, so it will be on the bond in April. It will involve resurfacing Forest Park, widening the shoulder by one foot, and getting new paint on the road. It will improve safety along this important corridor where many residents, including students going to and from West High and Romig, walk and bike.
- We unanimously passed an ordinance removing parking minimums in Anchorage. Note these minimums already did not exist in downtown, so there will be no change in that neighborhood. Prior to us passing this ordinance, we required an amount of parking that was sometimes excessive, making development more expensive and limited. This new change will allow developers to determine how much parking they need, based on the development they are doing. It will encourage innovative development, make development less expensive, and also encourage different types of transportation by including more bike parking.