

Talking Points

This is the last week to take action on the budget. *Mayor Bronson's proposed Municipal Budget slashes funding to help Anchorage accomplish the Climate Action Plan, obfuscates where and to what degree cuts are being made, and consolidates power under the mayor's office. Make sure your voice is heard!*

- The proposed budget **cuts the position of Sustainability Coordinator at Solid Waste Services**, one of the key positions working to target the goals of Anchorage's Climate Action Plan. This cut demonstrates Mayor Bronson's disregard for the Climate Action Plan, a plan passed in 2019 with overwhelming community support.
- The proposed budget cuts \$140k of the Mayor's Community Grants program. Community grants have funded a number of programs of non-profits providing vital services to our city, including vital services such as refugee assistance, immigration services, job-training resources; and community-building events and festivals such as Bear Paw, cross-country coach training, and New Years Eve and holiday lighting. Notably, these community grants were slashed while the management budget was actually raised with the addition of 4 new executive-level positions costing \$600,000. **The management budget was raised at the cost of community programs in our city.**
- The proposed budget moves the Library (historically its own department) under a division of Parks and Recreation. The move of the **Library under Parks and Recreation** results in 0 cost savings, but it does result in making the Library Director not subject to Assembly confirmation. Bronson has nominated two Library Directors who did not meet requirements of the job and failed to be appointed by the Assembly. This move appears to be solely so that the Library Director is no longer a department head, and not subject to Assembly confirmation. The library is an essential part of city services, and the Director position matters for all of Anchorage: this move is a power grab by Mayor Bronson that harms the city.
- The proposed budget defunds the **Mobile Crisis Team**, and eliminates the program. This means police officers, not trained behavioral health specialists, responding to people in crisis. The Mobile Crisis Team was anticipated to divert 7,300 calls from APD per year, freeing police up to investigate crime. And in a period of about two and a half months, the MCT responded to 149 people experiencing a state of crisis--only 8 of whom needed law enforcement transport to a hospital.