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## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL March 5, 2007**

### **1. ROLL CALL**

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. by Senator John Cowdery, Chairman, Legislative Council, in the Senate Finance Committee Room.

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Cowdery, Dahlstrom, Davis, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Harris, Stoltze, and Guttenberg. Absent members were: Elton, Samuels, and Wilson. Staff present were: Varni, Schofield, Cook, Price, Clothier, Gullufsen, Johnston, Ibesate, Carlson, and Makinster.

### **2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007 MINUTES**

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the February 1, 2007, Council meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. SANCTIONING OF CHARITABLE EVENTS**

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council sanction the following charitable events per AS 24.60.080(c)(10): Neighbors Feeding Neighbors Banquet and the Red Cross Luau.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **4. OVR LEASE RENEWAL APPROVAL**

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, informed the Council that the Office of Victims' Rights lease is up for their third and last one-year renewal option for existing lease space in Anchorage. The lease renewal period is from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the one-year renewal option for existing lease space in Anchorage for the Office of Victims' Rights in the amount of \$45,143.04.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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## **5. TRANSFER OF FY 07 LEGISLATIVE FUNDS APPROVAL**

Pam Varni, Executive Director informed the Council that the Session Expenses Component for FY 07 incurred unanticipated expenditures for two special sessions in the amount of \$969,672. Ms. Varni indicated that a projection of anticipated expenditures through June 30, 2007 for the Session Expenses Component projects a balance of minus \$600,000 without another special session occurring this fiscal year. Ms. Varni stated that Council may direct the Executive Director to transfer amounts from one appropriation to another if the transfer is considered necessary to accomplish the work of the Council. Ms. Varni explained that Representative Samuels, Chair of Legislative Budget and Audit, has sufficient FY 07 lapsing funds from LBA Committee Expenses to assist the Session Expenses Component.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council per AS 24.20.140 direct the Executive Director to transfer \$600,000 in FY 07 funds from the Budget & Audit Committee Expenses Component to the Session Expenses Component.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **6. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY FY 08 BUDGET**

Pam Varni, Executive Director offered the FY 08 Legislative Affairs Agency Budget overview. Ms. Varni stated that the Legislative Affairs Agency Budget contains eight of the thirteen budget components and two of the three RDU's in the Legislative Branch. The Legislative Affairs Agency request is a decrease of \$53,300 from the FY 08 Governor's figure and an increase of \$21,700 from our FY 08 Adjusted Base figure.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council submit the FY 08 Legislative Affairs Agency Budget Request to the House and Senate Finance Committees for their review and action.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FY 08 BUDGET**

Linda Lord-Jenkins, Ombudsman, presented the Office of the Ombudsman's FY 08 proposed budget request.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the FY 08 Office of the Ombudsman Budget Request and transmit it to the House and Senate Finance Committees for their review and action.

Representative Stoltze objected for discussion.

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Discussion followed.

Representative Stoltze removed his objection.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **8. ACCESSIBLE LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE PARKING POLICY APPROVAL**

Chairman Cowdery moved this item until later in the meeting.

## **9. SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE CONCEPTUAL PLANS**

Chairman Cowdery presented the Council with an update on the Scottish Rite Temple and conceptual plans for the Council to review. Chairman Cowdery informed the Council that correspondence was sent to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, asking them if they are interested in moving to the Scottish Rite Temple or the State Office Building. Chairman Cowdery stated that he has asked the Agency to go out for a Request for Proposals for architectural services; the results of the RFP will be brought back to Council for their approval.

Discussion followed.

## **10. BLOCK 39 DISCUSSION**

Senator Cowdery stated that the Legislature's lease for Anchorage office space will be over in June of 2009.

Chris Christensen, Deputy Administrative Director of the Alaska Court System, briefed the Council on Block 39 in Anchorage. He stated that the Court System purchased Block 39 in downtown Anchorage in 1993. The Court System currently uses the space for administrative and conference offices, warehouse and parking space. The buildings are old with substantial deferred maintenance needs and structural issues. Due to the extreme shortage of parking in the downtown area, the Municipality of Anchorage approached the Court System about Block 39. They would like to build a 620 space parking garage on half of the Block. According to the Municipality, it is the only publicly owned space in the downtown area suitable for a large parking garage. The Court System approached the Legislative Affairs Agency to see if the Legislature might have any interest in participating in the reconstruction of Block 39. The Court System did some preliminary work with the Legislative Affairs Agency and the Municipality. Mr. Christensen presented an architect's conception of what Block 39 would look like if it housed a parking garage, the Court Building, a Legislative Building and a Galleria.

Discussion followed.

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Chairman Cowdery appointed a subcommittee on the Anchorage office space consisting of the following members:

Senator Cowdery, Chair  
Senator French  
Senator Bunde  
Representative Meyer  
Representative Johnson  
Representative Doogan  
Senator McGuire - Alternate

## **11. ACCESSIBLE LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE PARKING POLICY APPROVAL**

Pam Varni, Executive Director presented the Council with a draft of the Accessible Legislative Employee Parking Policy and introduced Don Brandon, State ADA Coordinator to give an overview of accessible parking – Title III, Title I; public vs. employee parking, the difference between managed lots, other lots, etc.

Don Brandon presented information about ADA requirements in parking lots.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the Accessible Legislative Employee Parking Policy to ensure employees have a process for reasonable parking accommodation.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **12. UPDATE BY BILL HORN – WASHINGTON STATE FREIGHT CONTAINER TAX**

Chairman Cowdery removed the Bill Horn update due to the fact that Bill Horn was unavailable.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Cowdery notified the Council that he had a request that a Security Policy be adopted by Legislative Council. Chairman Cowdery appointed a Subcommittee on the Security Policy consisting of the following members:

Senator Stevens, Chair  
Senator Hoffman  
Representative Samuels

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.