

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
November 2012 Newsletter

October Recap:

What is a Community Council? If you attended our October meeting, you now know! Community Councils were created in Municipal Charter to allow citizens the opportunity to be fully involved in their community at the most grassroots level, be heard on important issues, and have an opportunity to become a part of the process. You get to question our elected leaders and Muni employees. You become part of the discussion.

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Hot Button Issue:
It's Budget Time!

The Muni is facing a budget shortfall - somewhere around \$13 Million dollars worth. Why it's happening and who is to blame is not the point. What is important is to decide how to solve this issue. The Mayor's office has released two proposed budgets - Budget "A" and Budget "B". It is now in the hands of our Assembly.

According to Assembly Representative Jennifer Johnston, Budget "A" is "bare bones". The "B" version is \$200,000 short of the tax cap, which means that our property taxes will increase. There is little "wiggle room" in this version. Conversations have begun about taking the "B" version and trying to make it work.

Johnston suggested to the Council that the general feeling in the Assembly is that we should tax to the cap. The tax cap limits the amount the budget can grow each year, and limits how much our property taxes increase each year, based on a formula that combines population growth and cost of living increases.

Johnston also stated that we are now in year 4 of a six-year fiscal plan that was designed to lessen the "cliff" we will face in Fiscal Year 2014. Next year we will be \$2 Million short. At the beginning of this six-year plan, it was estimated that we would be facing a \$30 Million shortfall.

The budget that comes out of these Assembly meetings and public hearings will affect each of us. What services and programs need to be fully funded? Are there areas that we can cut? Is there "fluff" that is not important? What do you think is vital?

You can read both versions of the budget at the Municipality website, www.muni.org There is a link on the right side of the page in the "What's New" section. This link goes straight to the 2013 Budget, at the Office of Management and Budget page. You can make your comments to wwomb@ci.anchorage.ak.us or call 343-4496 for more information.

By giving a small amount of your time and energy to take care of these items you are ensuring a safe household for your family during the winter months.

Submitted by Brian Partch, HOCC Steering Committee member and AFD firefighter.
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Just a Random Thought...

Okay, so summer wasn't all that it was supposed to be, and winter jumped in before we were ready. But at least we have plenty of firewood...

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November 15th meeting

Plan to attend the Nov 15th meeting of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council! We will catch up on all the issues we postponed from last month.

Remember that we always meet on the third Thursday monthly at Shepherd of the Hills Church, located on the corner of Elmore and Klatt. Enter through the front doors, turn left into the sanctuary, and head downstairs to join us in serving our community.

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

The number of crimes reported between September 21, 2012, and November 2, 2012, and the cumulative counts are recorded in the table below. No data was available for October 12 and 27.

Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total	Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total
Theft	11	73	Liquor violations	0	0
Assaults	2	9	Disorderly conduct	0	0
Burglaries	2	15	Prostitution	0	0
Disturbances	5	27	Vehicle theft	3	7
Fraud/Forgery	0	3	Drugs	1	9
Vandalism	0	38	Drunk problem	0	0
Weapons	0	1	Homicide	0	0
DUI	0	3	Arson	1	2

Robbery	1	3	Other	1	6
Sexual assaults	0	0	Domestic violence	0	0

If you are a crime victim, please be sure to report it to the Anchorage Police Department so that the information is logged into the MOA's crime statistics database. **HOCC also wants to remind everyone that the APD does not log reports unless you ask for a case number. Please remember, if you are making any police report regarding anything from noise to vandalism or suspicious behavior, always ask for a case number.**

Compiled by Wayne Crayton, HOCC Steering Committee Member. Information is from Anchorage Police Department records at <http://crimemap.muni.org/>

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From the President's Desk

Once again I am reminded of the value that the Community Council system is to the people of Anchorage.

Community Councils give voice to the issues and concerns of the people who live and work here. Our system of state and city government is exceptional and honorable. I believe that, from the politicians we elect to the people who work in our government, everyone strives to have the best interest of the people of this city in mind and wants only the best for our future.

Occasionally an issue will arise that has an impact on the people who live in a particular neighborhood, sometimes just to people living on a single street. And at times like this it may seem that no one will listen to their concerns. They think they "can't fight city hall".

As we have recently seen with some of the issues that have come before our own Community Council, that doesn't have to be the way it is. Community Councils exist to give those people a voice. Yes, I believe that you CAN fight city hall. No, we don't always get the results we want. But in most instances we come pretty close.

The point is this: I am proud of this Community Council and what it has accomplished. I believe that Huffman/O'Malley is one of the most efficient and effective in Anchorage. I believe that our Steering Committee is made up of some of the finest people this community has to offer.

All Community Councils involve volunteer effort. Sometimes, what we do takes time and effort. Those that are willing to give of themselves make this community a better place to live.

I thank each and every one of our Steering Committee. I am proud to be the President of this council.

*Pete Nolan, President
Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
hoccpresident@gmail.com*

Welcome New Members!

Thanks you for your support! Dues paying members are vital to our mission of two-way conversation and grassroots community input.

If you are not yet a dues-paying member, simply use the form at the bottom of this newsletter. Membership fee is only \$10 per person each year, and yes, we do accept larger contributions (please see instructions below). For our "snail mail" residents, you can become an "email person" by just letting us know, and save us some postage in the process.

And remember to contact us with your comments and concerns, because YOU CAN make a difference! Feel free to pass this e-Newsletter on to your neighbors, then remind them to join.

**Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC
Enclosed is my contribution of \$10 per person for this year.**

Name:

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone (home & other)

E-Mail

Comments & Concerns:

**Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, 1120 Huffman Road,
Suite 24, PMB 420, Anchorage, AK 99515**

Please note: Donations in a higher amount are greatly appreciated. If you want your donation to be tax deductible, please make your check out to: FCC (Federation of Community Councils) on behalf of "Huffman O'Malley Community Council". Please send this donation to the above mailing address and a tax deductible receipt will be provided. Thank You!