AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.15.010 TO RAISE THE MINIMUM VALUE OF PROPERTY IN THE CRIME OF THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING; AMENDING SECTION 8.75.160 TO RAISE THE VALUE THRESHOLD AND ADD A CIVIL VIOLATION ALTERNATIVE REMEDY; AND AMENDING SECTION 14.60.030 TO ESTABLISH A FINE AND CONFER JURISDICTION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER.

The Anchorage Police Department issues civil citations for violations of Anchorage Municipal Code section 8.75.160, “Shoplifting under $5.00” and submits this ordinance to increase the threshold amount to $25.00 and convey authority for adjudication to the administrative hearing officer (AHO) under Title 14. In 1998, the Department of Law prepared AO 98-59(S) which provided the language necessary to confer jurisdiction on the AHO to hear citations for several violations listed in AMC chapter 8.75, but omitted to do so in this “Shoplifting under $5.00” section. This ordinance inserts the language necessary to confer jurisdiction on the AHO to hear and decide alleged violations of AMC 8.75.160, and adds an amount to the fine schedule in Title 14. In addition, the Anchorage Police Department and Department of Law felt the threshold of $5.00 for the shoplifted item was too low at today’s prices for most consumer goods and recommends the new threshold of $25.00. The Administrative Hearing Office supports the amendments.

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Prepared by:    Department of Law
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Concur:    Sharon Weddleton, Chief Fiscal Officer
Concur:    James N. Reeves, Municipal Attorney
Concur:    Michael K Abbott, Municipal Manager
Respectfully submitted:    Mark Begich, Mayor