MEMORANDUM

To: Municipal Clerk Barbara Gruenstein
   Assembly Chair Dan Coffey

From: Mayor Mark Begich

Date: February 18, 2008

Re: AR 2008-1, a conditional use for Fantasies on 5th

With this memorandum, I am informing you of the reasons that I have vetoed AR 2008-1, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving an alcoholic beverages conditional use in the B-3 (General Business) District for a duplicate beverage dispensary use per AMC 21.40.180 D.8, for Debco, Inc., Fantasies on 5th, passed by the Anchorage Assembly on February 12, 2008.

I have vetoed this resolution because I believe the Assembly failed to fully consider all the information regarding the full ramifications of a new duplicate alcoholic beverage dispensary at this location. The Assembly action allows the sale of alcoholic beverages in an expanded 83-seat strip club at 1911 East 5th Avenue. Currently that space is used as a non-alcoholic strip club catering to those under the age of 21, which in itself presents challenges for our Police Department and the Community.

During the Assembly’s consideration of AR 2008-1, the debate was cut off by a motion to call the question prior to additional information from the Anchorage Police Department. Had the police testified, they would have informed the Assembly that APD had been called 198 times in 2006 to these clubs to deal with drugs, assaults and other disturbances. Those police calls increased to 218 in 2007, an average of more than one every other day. If the duplicate license is awarded, police calls will almost certainly increase without significant operational improvement. I believe this information should have been considered by the Assembly before it approved a conditional use permit.

Instead, the Assembly closed debate, preventing additional information to be considered. It is noteworthy that the presiding officer of the Assembly, the vice chair and the Assembly member in whose district this establishment is located all voted against closing debate and in favor of hearing additional information.

I believe strongly in an open and transparent process where all information regarding a Municipal action is considered in full public view. For these reasons, I have vetoed AR 2008-1 to allow an additional two weeks for the assembly to consider the Police Departments information, which could be shared through a work session.

Community, Security, Prosperity