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## Press Release

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### **Erika McConnell Appointed to Lead the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office**

February 21, 2017 ANCHORAGE – The Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) is pleased to announce Erika McConnell has been appointed as its new director. Ms. McConnell joins AMCO after 14 years with the Municipality of Anchorage, where she oversaw special land use permits for alcohol and wrote the city's marijuana land use regulations. Ms. McConnell will assume the responsibilities of the AMCO director on March 20.

"Ms. McConnell is an exceptional fit to lead the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office," said Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Commissioner Chris Hladick. "Her commitment to the consistent application of clear and effective regulations will protect public safety while also facilitating successful alcohol and marijuana industries."

Ms. McConnell has made her career in public service because she is driven to make Alaska a better place for all residents. She has over a decade of experience navigating the regulatory world, both drafting and implementing. In her time with the Municipality of Anchorage she worked closely with the AMCO staff on alcohol and marijuana matters in order to provide assistance to license applicants.

"I would also like to thank Sara Chambers for serving as acting director of the agency during the search and selection process," said Commissioner Hladick. "Her steady leadership ensured the staff and boards stayed on track, providing high-quality service during the interim."

Ms. Chambers was appointed acting director in January 2017.

The Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office—along with the Division of Banking and Securities, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, the Division of Insurance, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska—is an agency housed within the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development tasked with protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the agency, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco](http://commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco). For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its other agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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