



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

***Special Meeting Notice*/Agenda**

December 1, 2020

5:30PM – 6:00PM

Council Briefing Center

Lower Level, City Hall

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Commission Briefing Session:

5:30 – 5:35pm	1) Welcome to public	Commissioner Rose
	2) Agenda approval	Commissioner Rose

Commission Business:

5:36 – 5:55pm	1) OPOC Ordinance Resolution	Commissioners
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Adjournment:

5:56 – 6:00pm	Next Ombudsman Commission meeting will be held January 19, 2021	
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Join by WebEx

<https://spokanecity.webex.com/spokanecity/j.php?MTID=mdbfbf4c1b262c0ae322d86f726c4d75f>

Meeting number: 146 082 2426

Password: brDZqXhC366

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 146 082 2426

*No Public Comments will be taken during this Special Meeting

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: *The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs, and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Chambers and the Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., are both wheelchair accessible. The Council Briefing Center is equipped with an audio loop system for persons with hearing loss. The Council Chambers currently has an infrared system and headsets may be checked out by contacting the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at (509) 625-6363, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or msteinolfson@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.*

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-1

A Resolution of the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission to Waive the Training Requirement under the Spokane Municipal Code 04.32.070(a)

WHEREAS, Spokane Municipal Code 04.32.070(a) provides the police ombudsman shall continue his or her professional education throughout the period of employment as the ombudsman in subjects consistent with the responsibilities of employment; and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, such training shall include a training program in police procedures and orientation to the Spokane police department, including at least one ride-along with police within six months of appointment and at least two ride-alongs each year; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee subsequently issued several amendatory proclamations, exercising his emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamations 20-25, et seq., first entitled "*Stay Home – Stay Healthy*," and later changed to "*Safe Start – Stay Healthy*" *County-By-County Phased Reopening*, in which he initially prohibited all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except under certain circumstances and then gradually relaxed those limitations based on county-by-county phasing established according to metrics provided by the Secretary of Health; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2020, due to the increased COVID-19 infection rates across the state, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee ordered a freeze on all counties moving forward to a subsequent phase, and that freeze remains in place today; and

WHEREAS, despite guidance from the Secretary of Health, which, among other things, requires (with exceptions) the use of face coverings throughout the state, positive COVID-19-related cases and hospitalizations have been on a steady rise since early September; and, from the latter part of October through the first two weeks of November 2020, COVID-19 cases have doubled in Washington, and COVID-19-related hospitalizations have risen sharply, putting our people, our health system, and our economy in as dangerous a position as we faced in March 2020; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the virus is spread through very small droplets called aerosols that are expelled from our mouths when we breathe, talk, sing, vocalize, cough, or sneeze, that these aerosols linger in air, and that a significant risk factor for spreading the virus is prolonged, close contact with an infected person indoors, especially in poorly ventilated spaces; and

WHEREAS, we know that several factors increase the risk for person-to-person COVID-19 transmission; such factors include (1) the more that people and groups interact, (2) the longer those interactions last, (3) the closer the contact between individuals, and (4) the denser the occupancy for indoor facilities; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2020, due to the sharp increase of COVID-19 infection rates, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25.8, '*Stay Safe-Stay Healthy*' Rollback of County-by-County Phased Reopening Responding to a COVID-20 Outbreak Surge;" and

WHEREAS, Proclamation 20-25.8 orders further restrictions that apply to the entire State of Washington, which are specifically designed to limit in-person contact.

WHEREAS, the training requirement listed in Spokane Municipal Code 04.32.070(a), whereby it requires the ombudsman to participate in two ride-alongs each year would potentially increase in-person contact substantially for the ombudsman during the COVID-19 pandemic and it would increase in-person contact for one or more police officers; and

WHEREAS, Proclamation 20-25.8 ordered a State of Emergency to continue in all counties of Washington State through December 14, 2020, which may subsequently be extended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission finds that compliance with Spokane Municipal Code 04.32.070(a), regarding the two ride-along requirements for the calendar year 2020, has been substantially impeded due both to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the restrictions placed on Washington residents by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee. As such, these conditions excuse any noncompliance with the two ride-along requirements for calendar year 2020.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions placed on Washington residents by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, which began February 29, 2020, the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission waives the Spokane Municipal Code 04.32.070(a) training requirement that the police ombudsman complete two ride-alongs in 2020.

Passed by the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission this ____ day of November 2020.

Police Ombudsman Commission
Jenny Rose, Chair

Approved as to form:

Attorney for Police Ombudsman Commission