

**CITY OF SPOKANE PLAN COMMISSION  
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
REGARDING THE 5<sup>th</sup> AVENUE INITIATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

A recommendation of the City of Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council in the matter of a the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Initiative Community Strategy (“the strategy”), prepared in partnership with the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Initiative community stakeholders, as a declaration of priorities and actions to reimagine and revitalize East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Liberty Park and Thor/Freya Streets in the East Central Neighborhood.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- A. The 5th Avenue Initiative is a neighborhood-driven effort in partnership with the City of Spokane that builds on previous community discussions and efforts to revitalize the East 5th Avenue area from 2016 and 2017. The City helped re-engage a stakeholder group of residents, businesses, property owners, community organizations, and agency partners in 2019.
- B. The City secured the services of an independent contractor and community liaison for the purpose of facilitating the process and engaging the community (OPR 2019-0977), and signed a contract on October 28, 2019 with Pastor Rodney McAuley with Spokane Youth for Christ.
- C. The 5th Avenue Initiative was identified as a priority focus under former Mayor David Condon’s administration for concerted efforts to counter decades of systemic disinvestment rooted in redlining and the impact the I-90 freeway construction caused to the community in the 1950s.
- D. The City and facilitator held a series of community meetings and forums from November 2019 to February 2020 to discuss priorities and issues, and identify and explore community actions to reimagine and revitalize East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the surrounding area. Challenges identified by the neighborhood include a lack of identity and coordination for 5th Avenue; underutilized and underinvested commercial areas; a need for traffic calming, pedestrian and streetscape improvements; a need for preserving affordable housing; addressing the pressures of gentrification and displacement; and a desire to preserve neighborhood parks and expand amenities.
- E. *The 5th Avenue Draft Community Strategy* was prepared and shared with stakeholders in February 2020, to reflect the diverse community in the 5th Avenue area, present a community vision that is inclusive and unified, and provide strategic actions for improvements, programming, and community building along 5th Avenue, prior to the project being paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- F. *The 5th Avenue Draft Community Strategy* documents the desires of the 5th Avenue stakeholders and community for City decision-makers as they consider future funding and implementation measures for City plans and projects.

- G. Comments and feedback identified possible additions in the draft strategy related to the community history, arts and culture, housing and environmental justice. Those changes were incorporated into the final strategy and presented at the Plan Commission hearing on February 24, 2021.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

In the matter of the *5th Avenue Draft Community Strategy*, the Plan Commission recommends by a vote of 6 to 0 the Spokane City Council **APPROVE** the Resolution recognizing the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Community Strategy as a record of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Initiative stakeholders' and community's ongoing desire and effort to revitalize 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, encourage equitable development, and create a vibrant, healthy, active, safe, and connected community for all neighbors, businesses, and community organizations.



[Todd Beyreuther \(Mar 8, 2021 20:47 PST\)](#)

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**Todd Beyreuther, President**  
**Spokane Plan Commission**

Mar 8, 2021