

Via Email

May 15, 2020

Meghann Steinolfson, Interim Director
City of Spokane, Human Resources
msteinolfson@spokanecity.org

RE: Survey Request - Salary Review Commission

Meghann –

I am submitting this letter in lieu of completing the questions on your questionnaire. Since I began this position so recently, I don't feel I have enough perspective at this time to properly go into the details you requested.

As members of the City Council, our job is to represent our constituents, while ensuring the financial well-being of the City and the effective and efficient delivery of basic city services.

Each member addresses these responsibilities in their own unique and individual way. The position, as it has always been, is part-time, however Council work does require a substantial time commitment due to the gradual mission creep that has occurred over many years, which may be good and/or bad, but in many ways this transition has occurred without direct input from voters.

I continue to believe that moving the position to full-time with commensurate pay should require input from voters, either through a charter amendment or an advisory vote. There are merits to both a well-paid and full-time Council as well as a lower paid and part-time Council. The quality and types of future candidates/Officials are impacted by both and so is the work and activities of the Council. However, these merits should be debated publicly with input from our citizens.

I hope as the commission does their work on salaries they also consider the impacts of their decisions on the City budget in the short-term, which at the time of this writing is facing a steep shortfall of \$10 - \$12 Million dollars and that could continue to rise in the face COVID.

Sincerely,



Council Member Michael Cathcart
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