



Spokane Human Rights Commission

Thursday, April 1st, 2021

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

[Meeting Link](#)

+1-408-418-9388

Access code: 146 882 7916

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Land Acknowledgment & Public Comment Period:

5:30 - 5:40 Land Acknowledgement
Public Comment (3 minutes each). Citizens are invited to address the Commission on any topic not on the agenda.

Commission Briefing Session:

5:40 - 5:45 A. Roll Call & Approval of the [March Minutes](#) Chair Kissler

Standing Update(s):

5:45 – 6:00	Chair Report & Budget Update (15 mins)	Chair Kissler
6:00 – 6:10	Sikh Community Support Resolution (10 mins)	Alex Gibilisco
6:10 - 6:25	Housing Action Plan Update (15 mins)	Maren Murphy
6:25 – 6:45	Subcommittee Updates (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach• Civic Impact• Stability Planning	Comm. Moore Comm. Peace Comm. Riley
6:45-7:00	2021 Workplan (15 mins)	Chair Kissler
7:00	Adjourn	

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 Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through 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.

Adjournment

- 1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for
6th of May , 2021 at 5:30pm (PST)

The password for City of Spokane Guest Wireless access has been changed:

Username: COS Guest Password:

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Spokane Human Rights Commission March 4th, 2021

Meeting Minutes: Called to order at 5:37 PM

Public Comment: Fourteen members of the public attended to express favor for “funded and staffed” Office of Civil Rights. Three testified:

- Reverend Gen Haywood of Truthful Tuesdays
- Naghmana Sherazi of APIC, Peace, Justice Action League, and Refugee Connections,
- Rick Matters of NAACP
- Dean Lynch, Spokane County Human Rights Commission

Virtual Gallery Attendees: Liz Moore, Curtis Hampton, Dr. Ping Ping, Justice Sun, Ian Sullivan, Katy Sheehan, Carmen Pachenco Jones, Dr. Raymond Reyes, Stacey Taninchev, Alexandra Goates

Commission Briefing Session:

1. Roll Call and Approved the January minutes as presented:

- a. Commission Members Present: Lance Kissler, Hayley Harrison, Dr. Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Anwar Peace, Aaron Riley, Council Liaison Betsy Wilkerson
- b. Commission Member not present: Jac Archer, Earl Moore
- c. Staff Members Present: Alex Gibilisco, Mark Carlos

2. **Quorum:** Yes.

3. **Agenda and Minutes:** Moved by Commissioner Hernandez Jarvis, seconded by Vice Chair Harrison. Unanimously approved with amendment to correct the date on last month’s minutes.

Discussion Items

1. Chairs Report & Budget

- a. Media inquiries around attack on Temple Beth Shalom
- b. Budget remains the same as last month

2. Sikh Community

- a. Council EDI Officer Alex Gibilisco introduced Kulvinder Gill who is a community member who is also a Sikh immigrant from the Punjab Region of India. Gill gave a testimony about the plight of farmers in India and effects on Spokane’s Sikh Community. Recent agriculture reforms in India are adversely affecting smaller farms resulting in three months of deadly protests.

- b. A resolution will be drafted and considered at next month's meeting. SHRC couldn't donate to help the Sikh Community because they are funded by tax payer dollars.
- 3. District 2 Commissioner Vacancy Applicants**
- a. Candidates introduced themselves, expressed why they wanted to serve on the commission and took questions from Commissioners and Council Liaison Wilkerson. Candidates in order were:
 - i. Daniel Thompson
 - ii. Brennan Schreibman
 - iii. Dr. Emily Clark
 - iv. Dr. Mark Mitchell
 - b. Commissioners and Council Liaison Wilkerson will give feedback to Chair Kissler before he forwards the applications to Mayor Woodward.
- 4. OCR Exploratory Task Force – Research & Outreach Presentation –**
- a. Dr. Kristen F Hoover of Gonzaga University and Dr. Pui-Yan Lam of EWU gave a presentation on their study around establishing an Office of Civil Rights and how it has worked in comparable sized cities.
 - b. Council Liaison Wilkerson raised an issue about where the office would be charged under. Ombudsman Bart Logue suggested that it go under SHRC. Discussion was proposed to be presented before City Council at a Study Session.
 - c. Council Liaison Wilkerson moved and Commissioner Riley seconded. All approved, it will be sent to Council to be considered in a Study Session.
- 5. Subcommittee Reports**
- a. Due to time constraints, Subcommittee Reports, and related discussions around the 2021 Workplan were deferred to next month's meeting.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting scheduled March 4th, 2021. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

A subset of the work of the OCR Exploratory Task Force

Presented to the Spokane Human Rights Commission on March 4, 2021

Presented by Dr. Kristine F. Hoover

GLORIE Benchmark Study: Government Local Offices dedicated to Rights, Inclusion and Equity

Benchmark Communities

*Note: All data was collected from publicly available websites during 2020-2021

Similar Size Cities	Pacific Northwest Cities
Boise, Idaho Human Resources Department	Portland, Oregon Office of Equity and Human Rights
Des Moines, Iowa Civil & Human Rights Commission	Seattle, Washington Office of Civil Rights
Madison, Wisconsin Department of Civil Rights	Tacoma, Washington Office of Equity and Human Rights

Key Findings

Public Policy and Unfunded Mandates

Proactive AND
Compliance Approaches

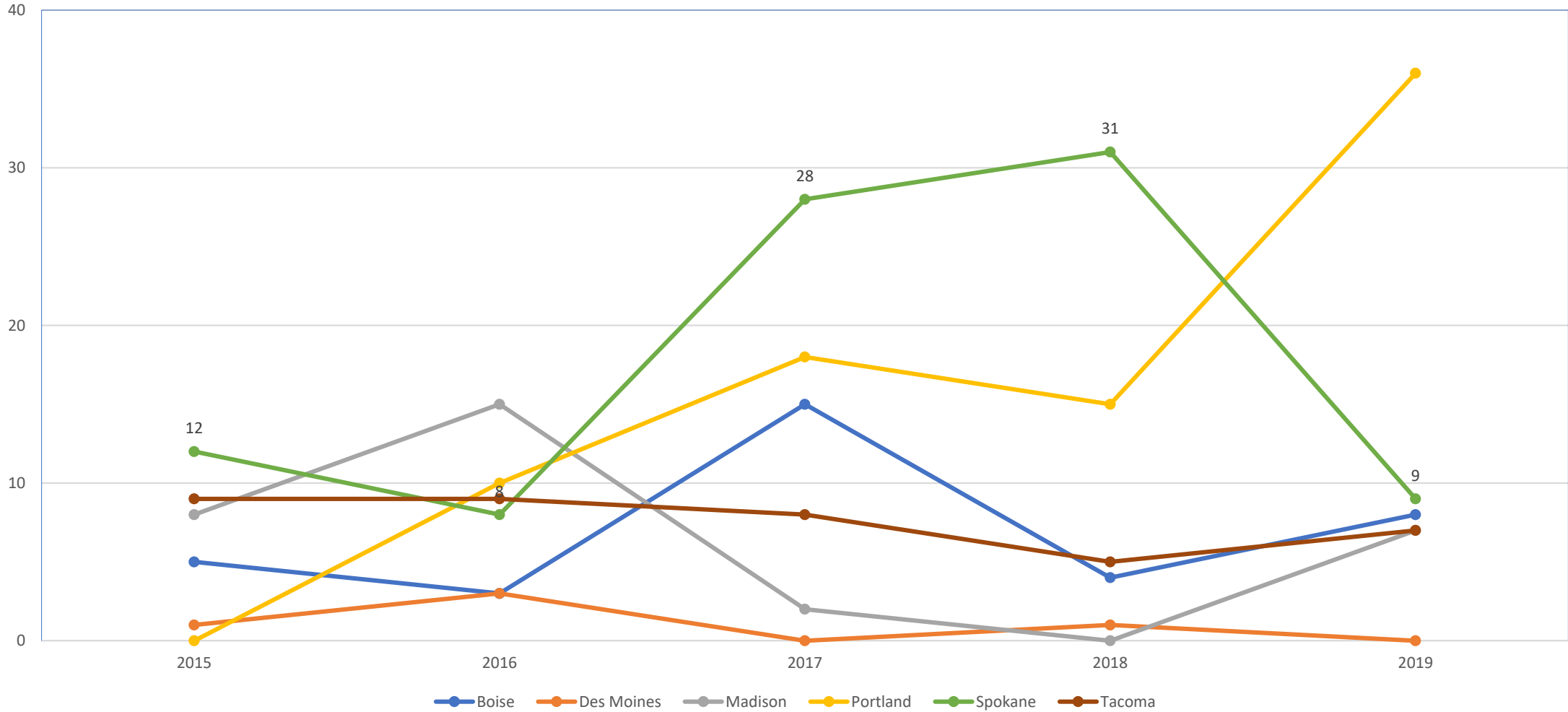
Capacity and Resources

Capacity and Resources

Summary of All Benchmarked Cities Capacity and Resources			
Community	Full Time Equivalent s	Most Recent Budget (all General Fund)	Per Capita Investment in Office of Civil Rights
SIMILAR SIZE CITIES (WITH PROXIMITY)			
Boise City, ID Human Resource Department	2	Unknown	Unknown
Des Moines, IA Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission	6	\$801,928	\$3.74
Madison, WI Department of Civil Rights	19	\$2,068,718	\$7.97
PACIFIC NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES			
Portland, OR Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights	20	\$2,932,786	\$4.48
Seattle, WA Office of Civil Rights	35	\$6,997,982	\$9.29
Tacoma, WA Office of Equity and Human Rights	14.1	\$4,564,664	\$20.96

Annual Aggregate Hate Crimes 2015 - 2019 for Benchmark Cities including Spokane (excluding Seattle)

Source: FBI Hate Crime Report





Chair's Report

April 1, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

Below is a summary of activities I participated in as Chair of the SHRC, as well as additional points of interest:

- Social Media (Facebook)
 - Posted the March 2021 Meeting Recap Video by Commissioner Peace.
 - Posted a chair's statement regarding anti-Asian hate incidents.
 - Posted a chair's statement regarding a hate incident directed at an EWU student.
 - Posted the April 2021 SHRC meeting.
- OCR Exploratory Task Force
 - The task force is asking for feedback on the full report before submitting the final version to the Commission.
 - Two representatives from the task force, Kurtis Robinson and Lance Kissler, will be meeting with city leadership on Wednesday, April 7, to discuss the Civil Rights Officer position.
- Spoke with a local college student who is interested in serving on the Commission; reached out to the Mayor's Office to inquire on expanding the age range consideration for the youth representative position. No applications have come in yet.
- Forwarded Commissioner input regarding District 2 position candidates to the Mayor's Office.
- Responded to an inquiry regarding an individual's interest to serve on the Commission.
- Drafted the proposed resolution for the Sikh community.
- Participated in and helped facilitate subcommittee meetings.
- Created a website bios document for Commissioners to begin uploading their bios (includes background/experience/interests, contact information, and pronouns).
- Created a new email signature template that incorporates pronouns.

Unposted Amount



CITY OF SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation recognizing the contributions of our Sikh community members, both locally and abroad, and the negative impact of farming legislation in India and opposition to peaceful protests.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission (the “Commission”) is dedicated to addressing issues related to human rights and unjust discrimination and the implementation of programs consistent with the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, the Commission understands and respects the contributions of the world’s farmers in producing food for all; and

WHEREAS, Spokane is home to many of these farmers and members of the Sikh community who still own farmland have families, friends and loved ones in the countries from which they emigrated; and

WHEREAS, community members have expressed their concerns about the farming bills that were passed in India that reregulated the buying and selling of agricultural goods; and

WHEREAS, the enacted changes will result in the privatization of farmer’s markets in India and will adversely affect the financial situation of many in our community and their families back in India; and

WHEREAS, farmers have the right to demonstrate peacefully and without intimidation; and

WHEREAS, Spokane has recognized, and stood with, diverse communities whose families have faced hardship abroad,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission stands in solidarity with members of the Sikh community, including their friends, families and loved ones both local and abroad, who have been directly affected by the farming bills and opposition to peaceful protesting in India.

Adopted by the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission on April 1, 2021.

Lance Kissler
Chair, City of Spokane Human Rights Commission