



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 meeting will provide for in person attendance. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers–Lower Level of City Hall, 808 Spokane Falls Blvd. Members of the public, Commission members, City staff, and presenters will still have the option to participate remotely via Teams by clicking the “Meeting Link” on this page or by calling the number provided.

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

[Meeting Link](#)

+1-323-618-1887

Access code: 577 455 431#

**TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Land Acknowledgment & Public Comment Period:

5:30 - 5:35 Land Acknowledgment  
Public Comment (3 minutes each). Citizens are invited to address the Commission.

## Commission Briefing Session:

5:35 - 5:40 A. Roll Call & Approval of Consent Agenda Chair Peace

## Standing Update(s):

5:40-5:50	Acknowledging Black History Month	Kurtis Robinson
5:50-6:10	Presentation on Trent Shelter Services	Revive Counseling
6:10-6:20	Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion Director Update	
6:20-6:35	SHRC 2023 Work-plan	
6:35-7:00	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SHRC Retreat</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Civic Impact</li> <li>• Outreach</li> </ul>	

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30pm (PST)</b>	

**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 Spokane City Council Chamber 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.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or 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](mailto: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.



Chair's Report

February 1, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

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

❖ **Commission Updates**

- Commissioner Harrison has been reappointed for a second term.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 1/12/23.
- The Chair had a private meeting with a service provider and a City Council Member on 1/13/23, which that meeting was on the topics surrounding Homeless issues.
- Communicated to Commissioner Archer about the importance of meeting attendance, as well as Commissioner Archer indicated they would like to be part of the SHRC Civic Impact Committee.
- Held a Special-Meeting of the SHRC Executive Committee on 1/19/23, concerning the issues surrounding the OCREI Director-Situation.
- The City Administration requested a meeting with the SHRC Chair, which that meeting was held on 1/25/23 at City Hall.
- Communicated to Commissioners about the Special-Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the ["Community-Forum: Envisioning how this new OCREI will work in our community"](#).
- Distributed the SHRC Homeless Resource Guide pamphlets to service providers, shelters, and as well as at the "Homeless Connect" event at the Spokane Convention Center on 1/25/23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. which the Chair attended the event.

- Helped a Commissioner with getting in touch with City IT, in order to get them unlocked from their city email.
- Regularly communicated with SHRC Executive Committee last month about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.
- The Chair received a phone call on 1/26/23 from Police Chief Craig Meidl regarding the tragic beating & killing of Tyre Nichols at the hands of Memphis Police Officers, in which the Chief was asking the Chair for advice on how SPD could be proactive in the community on addressing the issues raised in the Nichols case.
- The Chair wrote a Statement on behalf of the SHRC "*Acknowledging Black History Month*", which will be posted on the SHRC Facebook page.

#### ❖ **OCREI**

- Communicated to the OCREI Taskforce that the SHRC Executive Committee would be coming up with an "Action-Plan" on addressing the OCREI Director "*Q & A Community-Forum*" the community had been asking for.
- Received notification that Commissioner Kissler was stepping down as lead of the City's OCREI "External-Search-Committee" for the director position, as well as stepping down as lead of the OCREI Taskforce.
- Communicated to the OCREI Taskforce about the new SHRC Executive Committee "Action-Plan" on addressing the OCREI Director situation.
- The Chair had a private meeting with the City Administration which had requested the meeting and was held on 1/25/23 at City Hall. The topic of the meeting were the issues surrounding the OCREI Director situation, which the Chair was told that by 1/27/23 the City Administration would have picked the final 2 candidates out of the 3 candidates that remain in the pool. As of this date it is unknown if that did occur.

- The SHRC Executive Committee went forward with their "Action-Plan" on addressing the OCREI Director situation by creating the Special-Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the *"Community-Forum: Envisioning how this new OCREI will work in our community"*.
- Communicated to the OCREI Director candidates and cordially invited them to attend the Special-Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the *"Community-Forum: Envisioning how this new OCREI will work in our community"*. The Chair has heard back from candidates, and they do plan on attending the Special-Meeting.
- Communicated to the OCREI Taskforce about the Special-Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the *"Community-Forum: Envisioning how this new OCREI will work in our community"*.

#### ❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the February 2, 2023 meeting event.
- Created the February 9, 2023 Special-Meeting event on the *"Community-Forum: Envisioning how this new OCREI will work in our community"*.
- Reposted a post from the Spokane NAACP President about the tragic beating & killing of Tyre Nichols at the hands of Memphis Police Officers.
- Posted a Statement on behalf of the SHRC *"Acknowledging Black History Month"*.

# MONTHLY MEETING 01/05/2023

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05 JANUARY 2023 / 5:30 PM / CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 5:42 P.M.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Read by:** Chair Peace

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**In-person:** No public comment

**Online:** Ivan Urnavitz - Congratulated incoming chair, Anwar Peace; thanked outgoing chair, Lance Kissler.

Nichollette Ocheltree - Congratulated incoming chair, Anwar Peace.

## ROLE CALL

**Present:** Anwar Peace, Lance Kissler, Brennan Schreiber, Alex Knox, Olivia Arballo-Saenz, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Hayley Harrison, Livia Koh (Zoom), Jerrall Haynes, Karen Stratton

**Absent:** Jac Archer

## CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion to approve:** Lance Kissler                      **Seconded:** Brennan Schreiber

**Final outcome:** Motion carried by unanimous decision.

## RESOLUTION, 2ND READ

“A resolution proposing a standard protocol for processing, considering, and acting upon concerns about city-owned buildings, sites, structures, monuments, and other objects

**Motion to approve:** Lance Kissler                      **Seconded:** Alex Knox

**Final outcome:** Motion carried by unanimous decision. Resolution will be provided to City Council.

## GUEST PRESENTATION: JULIE GARCIA, JEWEL'S HELPING HANDS

Julie talked about the many ways in which her organization, Jewel's Helping Hands, works with individuals experiencing homelessness in the Spokane community.

**Notes:**

- There are about 200 people living at Camp Hope, which is down from the more-than-600 individuals living there at its peak.
- Forget Me Not program - only 1 person has had to return after starting the program since its inception about 3 years ago
- A variety of different housing options are necessary to meet the differing needs of those experiencing homelessness

**Guest Contact information:**

Website: <https://www.jewelshelpinghands.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jewelshelpinghands/?mibextid=6NoCDW>

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

**Executive committee:** *Anwar Peace, Chair; Brennan Schreibman, Vice-chair; Hayley Harrison, Secretary/treasurer*

**Civic Impact Committee:** *Alex Knox (Committee lead); Maria Hernandez-Peck, Hayley Harrison (tentative)*

**Outreach Committee:** *Olivia Arballo-Saenz (Committee lead); Lance Kissler; Hayley Harrison; Livia Koh*

*Awards Subcommittee:* Hayley Harrison; Alex Knox

## DISCUSSION: DIRECTOR OF OFFICE CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY, & INCLUSION - CANDIDATE PUBLIC FORUMS

**Date & facilitation:** Next SHRC meeting discussed as a potential date

## DISCUSSION: SHRC COMMISSIONER RETREAT

**Date:** February 11, 2023 marked for group retreat

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**Chair Peace adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.**



# CITY OF SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## Acknowledging Black History Month from the Spokane Human Rights Commission

February is [Black History Month](#), in which the nation honors the culture & contributions that Black-Americans have shared with this country. During Black History Month Americans learn a lot about the work of [Frederick Douglass](#), [Martin Luther King Jr](#), [Rosa Parks](#), [Malcolm X](#), [Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall](#), and [Congressman John Lewis](#). The culture & contributions that Black-Americans have shared are in no way just limited to these above famous Black Leaders, because Black Leaders come in all sizes & sometimes those Black Leaders might be locally in our very backyard.

Here in Spokane, this city's history includes many, many Black Leaders & Black Community Members that have left a large & lasting impact in our community. The [Spokane Human Rights Commission](#) wishes to "*acknowledge & honor*" some of those Spokane Black Leaders & Black Community Members who've greatly contributed to our community:

- ❖ [Civil-Rights Attorney Carl Maxey \(1924-1997\)](#) -- "*You can't allow the police to investigate themselves*", Carl Maxey was quoted in [news accounts](#) about the case of a 17-year-old Black Lewis & Clark High School student killed by Spokane police in 1974.
- ❖ [Civil-Rights Author Jerrelene Williamson](#) -- "*Whatever happens to someone of my race, happens to all of us, because it affects all of us*", said [Jerrelene Williamson](#) who has seen many benefits from the civil rights movement in improved opportunities in her life, her children's lives and the lives of other [African Americans in Spokane](#).



- ❖ **Educator, Activist, Attorney Frances L. Scott (1921-2010)** --"*I will not let the dream die. We have made progress, but we have not reached the end of the journey. Dr. King's dream is not a reality yet. But as long as we are moving in the direction of the dream, we will succeed*", said Frances Scott as the keynote speaker during the [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Event](#) at Spokane Community College in 2000.
- ❖ **Civil-Rights Activist Eleanor Barrow Chase (1918-2002)** --"*I love the city of Spokane because of the wonderful people we have, and its great beauty in every way*", Eleanor Chase was quoted in [news accounts](#) as saying.
- ❖ **Spokane's 1<sup>st</sup> Black Lilac Parade Princess Gail Caldwell Bonner** -- "*The best thing I remember was when the mothers were invited to go to the luncheon, held at the Ridpath. Instead of my mother having to serve, she was served. She was able to sit there in her beautiful suit, her hat on her head. She was a queen that day. Riding the float was really fun. I saw so many black faces out there, little kids, and I'm waving and it dawned on me: 'They know they can be a princess, too'*", Gail Bonner was quoted in a [Spokesman-Review story in 2013](#) about the parade in 1963.
- ❖ **Spokane's 1<sup>st</sup> Black Mayor James Everette Chase (1914-1987)** --"*I think Spokane has some of the finest people -- white and Negro -- you can find anyplace. For that reason, I think race relations progress should be greater than it is. Actually, there have been no problems. We have found that color doesn't seem to enter into a business transaction. If a man wants his car fixed, he doesn't care who fixes it as long as it's fixed right*", James Chase was quoted in [news accounts](#) about owning his auto-body repair shop as a young Black man in 1946.
- ❖ **Civil-Rights Activist, Publisher & Editor of The Black Lens Newspaper Sandy Williams (1961-2022)** --"*Racial disparity is everywhere you look in Spokane. Whether that's housing, education, health care, or criminal justice, racial discrimination exists. And we haven't been addressing that. It feels like it's starting to reach a critical mass. It's getting to be enough people in enough different places to start having an impact. If we don't address the structure, if we don't address the system, nothing is really going to change*", Sandy Williams was

quoted in [news accounts](#) about Keynoting at the 2019 Access to Justice Conference.