



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The April 6th, 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 Acknowledgement
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):

5:40-6:05	Community-Wid Planning on Homelessness	Spokane Regional Continuum of Care Board Co-Chair
6:05-6:25	OCREI Resolution 20230209- 2nd Read	
6:25-6:40	"In Spokane We All Belong"- Discussion	
6:40-7:00	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive • Outreach • Civic Impact 	

	Adjournment	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6th, at 5:30pm (PST)	

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. 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

April 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**

- The Spokane Public Library requested to interview the SHRC Chair for the Library's new Community-Magazine (yet to be named), which the interview was held at the Downtown Library and was recorded in their Podcast-Studio.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the Co-Chair's of the City of Spokane Regional Continuum of Care Board who agreed to give a presentation at the SHRC April meeting, Commissioner Knox suggested this presentation to the Chair at our last meeting.
- The City Administrator requested a meeting with the SHRC Chair, which that meeting was held on 3/15/23 at City Hall on the topic of the Trent Shelter operations.
- The SHRC Chair was interviewed by KXLY on the topic of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion (OCREI), [which that story aired on 3/18/23.](#)
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 3/19/23.
- The SHRC Chair was interviewed on [Seattle Radio 1150AM—KKNW on the "Mother's Justice Show" hosted by Rev. Harriett Walden on 3/20/23,](#) recently Rev. Walden was recognized in Seattle as ["The Most Influential Person For Police Accountability In The Pacific Northwest"](#).
- The SHRC Chair was contacted by a KXLY Reporter on 3/28/23 about a story they were working on about a recent hate-crime, the Chair was able to refer them to [the SHRC](#)

[Vice-Chair who was interviewed and the story aired on 3/30/23.](#)

- Regularly communicated with SHRC Executive Committee last month about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.

❖ **OCREI**

- The SHRC Chair attended a private meeting on 3/15/23 with the City Administrator who had requested the meeting, on the topic of the Trent Shelter operations and at the end of the meeting the OCREI Director Search-Process was discussed briefly.
- The SHRC Chair was able to fill the positions for the 2 External-Panels for the OCREI Director Search-Process which those panelists include; **1st "External-Panel"**: SHRC Vice-Chair Brennan Schreibman, SHRC Jac Archer, Kurtis Robinson, Katy Sheehan. **2nd "External-Panel"**: SHRC Maria Hernandez-Peck, Dean Lynch, Terri Anderson, Justice Forral.
- [KXLY aired a story on the topic of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion \(OCREI\) on 3/18/23,](#) which that story included an interview from the SHRC Chair.
- The SHRC Chair attended the Greater Spokane Progress OCREI Workgroup Meeting on 3/28/23, which the Chair provided an update on the OCREI Director Search-Process.
- Communicated to the OCREI Taskforce and to the SHRC Executive Committee a update about the SHRC Chair's meeting with the City Administration.

❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the April 6, 2023 SHRC meeting event.
- Reposted a post from Transportation Choices Coalition, which was on the topic of repealing Washington State's "Jaywalking" Laws.
- Posted a [news story from the Spokesman-Review about the "Landlord/Tenant Ordinances" passed by Spokane City Council on 2/27/23,](#) which those Ordinances includes *"In addition, the Spokane Office of Civil Rights, Equity, &*

Inclusion (OCREI) is now authorized to hire a housing ombudsman who can help both landlords and tenants.”

- Reposted a post from the City Council about the “Council Connection Video”; with Spokane Councilwoman Karen Stratton, along with Housing and Homelessness Initiative Manager Nicolette Ocheltree, which was a breakdown on some of the myths & misconceptions of the Landlord/Tenant Ordinances.
- Posted the [3/18/23 KXLY story on the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion \(OCREI\)](#), which that story included an interview from the SHRC Chair.
- Posted the 3/20/23 “Mother’s Justice Show” hosted by Rev. Harriett G Walden on Seattle Radio 1150AM—KKNW, in which the SHRC Chair was interviewed.
- Posted the [3/30/23 KXLY story about a recent hate-crime](#), which that story included an interview from the SHRC Vice-Chair.
- Reposted multiple times the Spokane Human Rights Champions Awards Nominations Forms, which Nominations ended 3/31/23.



Spokane Human Rights Commission
Civic Impact Committee

March 31, 2023

Committee Members:

Lead – Alex Knox
Member – Hayley Harrison
Member – Jac Archer
Member – Maria Peck

Report on Committee Activities:

- 1) Update to Title 18 SMC
 - a) Concerning Rights of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
 - i) Making sure those experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and respect.
 - b) Concerning Unfair Public Accommodation Practices
 - c) Fair City Contracting Practices
- 2) Spokane Regional Homelessness Authority
 - a) Human Rights Commission should be stakeholder in discussion to ensure equitable solutions.
- 3) Healthy Communities through Transit Equity
 - a) Research shows that transit helps increase physical activity, lowers levels of disease related to environmental factors, and results in greater pedestrian and vehicular safety.
 - b) Ensuring cost of transit is affordable and accessible to all.
 - c) Advocacy for a robust transportation system to keep up with current and expected growth to region.
 - d) Expanded transit options will benefit low-income communities by connecting them to affordable housing, healthy environments, high-quality education, and well-paying jobs

throughout the region – where otherwise their freedom of movement is limited to the central regions of Spokane County

- 4) City Council action regarding a process for historic monument review
 - a) Civic Impact Committee is prepared to follow out the process outlined in new ordinance, should the committee be charged with reviewing the Monaghan Statue on Monroe Street and Riverside Avenue
- 5) City Council Public Safety Reform
 - a) Members were interested in reviewing Council President Beggs proposed Public Safety Agenda from 2020 – making possible recommendations to City Council on policy.
 - b) Safe Open Spaces Act – proposed ordinance being introduced April 24th



CITY OF SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

A resolution regarding the process of hiring the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion & the Commission's commitment to the public format of the community forum

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 established the Office of Civil Rights Task Force in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Commission provided research, analysis, and a formal recommendation to City Leadership for the establishment of a city-funded Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion ("OCREI") consisting of one Director position and five full-time staff positions in November 2021; and

WHEREAS, City Leadership approved to establish a city-funded Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion consisting of one director position and two full-time staff positions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission provided City Administration with guidance and support throughout the recruiting and selection process; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has advocated for the need to host a community forum, as expressed by community stakeholders, prior to extending a formal offer to any Director candidate(s); and

WHEREAS, City Administration stated that on January 27th, the Mayor would select two candidates as finalists, at which time the possibility of the Community Forum would be discussed with the Chair; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor selected and offered the position to one candidate on January 27th who subsequently withdrew their application on January 31st, resulting in the position remaining vacant; and

WHEREAS, the entire hiring process for the Director position, beginning with the original job posting and recruitment of applicants was reinitiated on February 6th; and

WHEREAS, the Commission held a Special Meeting with the purpose of hearing from the community about individuals' views and expectations as they relate to the future OCREI on February 9th, and

WHEREAS, the Chair met with the Mayor and City Administrator to discuss the hiring process and reiterate the need for robust community involvement, transparency, & expediency throughout said process, on February 17th, at which time the Chair shared the importance of holding a community forum for final candidates, as expressed by community members and individual Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Administrator offered to allow a second panel of community stakeholders as an alternative to hosting a public community forum; and

WHEREAS, the framework for the OCREI Director hiring process that the Mayor & City Administrator have agreed upon is as follows:

1. An "internal panel" comprised of members of the Mayor's cabinet.
2. An "external-panel" comprised of SHRC Vice-Chair Schreibman, Kurtis Robinson, Pui-Yan Lam, & one additional Commissioner, yet to be determined.



**CITY OF SPOKANE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

3. A second “external panel” comprised of four members of the SHRC OCR Taskforce, participating members are also yet to be determined.

WHEREAS, the Chair expressed to the Mayor and City Administrator that the Commission remains deeply committed to pursuing the community’s public format of the community forum; and

WHEREAS, the public community forum would allow members of the community to ask questions directly to the OCREI Director final candidates, providing an irreplicable opportunity for engagement & ensuring restored faith in the equity & transparency of this process;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission will make every effort to facilitate the community forum in accordance with the wishes, as expressed, of community members, although the Commission acknowledges that the decision is solely the prerogative of the Mayor.

Adopted by the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission on March 2, 2023.

Anwar Peace
Chair, City of Spokane Human Rights Commission