



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The May 4th, 2023 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	SLIHC: Regional Homeless Authority Creation	Ben Stuckart: Executive Dir.
6:05-6:25	The Way to Justice: Criminal Justice System/Racial Inequity	Camerina Zorrozua: Co-Founder
6:25-6:40	Homeless Prevention Tactic Discussion	Commissioner Kissler
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 June 1st, 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

May 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 SHRC City Council Liaison was sent an email by the SHRC Chair on the topic of the SHRC--RESOLUTION 2023-002 adopted by the Commission on 4/6/23, which then that Resolution was sent to the rest of the City Council for their consideration. RESOLUTION 2023-002 was regarding the process of hiring the director of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI) and the Commission's commitment to the public format of the community forum.
- The SHRC Chair had a brief conversation with a Spokane Public Library Representative on 4/10/23 about the possibility of the Spokane Human Rights Commission (SHRC) & the Spokane Public Library working together to host a "Coffee with a Commissioner" event at the Library, which Council Member Stratton suggested & supports that event and is something the SHRC Outreach Committee has talked about doing in the past. An email was then sent to the SHRC Outreach Committee lead, Commissioner Arballo-Saenz, along with to the Library Representative so they would be able to facilitate creating & crafting this event.
- Commissioner Knox and the SHRC Chair attended the "Community Conversation on Homelessness: Kick-off Event for Community Members to Share Input" on 4/13/23 at the Downtown/Central Library, here is a link to watch the video

of the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nJNLWQk6pc>.

- The SHRC Chair reached out to the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC) Executive Director Ben Stuckart who agreed to give a presentation at the SHRC May meeting, after the Chair had seen Mr. Stuckart's presentation at the Homeless Symposium library event on 4/13/23.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to "The Way To Justice" Co-Founder & Legal Director Camerina Zorrozua who agreed to give a presentation at the SHRC May meeting, after the Chair had seen Mrs. Zorrozua's presentation at a [3/27/23 City Council meeting after Council had given "The Way To Justice" a City-Proclamation](#).
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Frontier Behavioral Health Executive Director Jeff Thomas who agreed to give a presentation at the SHRC June meeting, Commissioner Hernandez-Peck suggested this presentation to the Chair before our last meeting.
- A reporter with the [Fig Tree Newspaper](#) emailed the SHRC Chair to request an interview with the Chair on the topic of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion (OCREI) for their May publication, which the Chair agreed to do and the interview took place on 4/15/23.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 4/19/23.
- The SHRC Chair attended the 4/24/23 event on "Spokane Regional Collaborative on Homelessness: Coming Together with Community" held at the Downtown/Central Library.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the American Indian Community Center -Board of Directors Chair Professor Margo Hill who has tentatively agreed to give a presentation at the SHRC June meeting.
- A West Hills Neighborhood Council CA Representative who is also the new Chair of the Spokane Police Advisory Committee reached out to the SHRC Chair, which they were requesting a coffee-meeting with the Chair to discuss topics surrounding Public-Safety in our community. The Chair

agreed to the coffee-meeting and that meeting took place on 4/26/23.

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

❖ **OCREI**

- The City Administrator and the SHRC Chair had a brief conversation on 4/10/23 about the OCREI Director Hiring-Process, which the City Administrator assured the Chair that the City's target-date of a selection/announced Director in 5/2023 and for a 6/1/23 start date was still the plan going forward. Also, the City Administrator said that both the **"Internal-Panel"** comprised of members of the Mayor's Cabinet and one of the **"External-Panels"** have coalesced around one candidate. At that point the SHRC Chair relayed to the Administrator there shouldn't be just one candidate the panels come up with and that there should also be a runner up offered to the City Administration as well, which the City Administrator said he supported that.
- The SHRC Chair was able to have some brief conversations with several **"External-Panel"** members, which those panel-members told the Chair that they felt that that OCREI Director Hiring-Process was running very smoothly and reported no problems.
- *Some of the things the SHRC Chair has learned about the OCREI Director Hiring-Process:* As of 3/17/23 there were 5 candidates, and on the 17th, they were interviewed by the **"Internal-Panel"** comprised of members of the Mayor's Cabinet. On 4/7/23 one of the **"External-Panels"** then held interviews with the candidates, and then at that point on 4/11/23 the 2nd **"External-Panel"** interviewed with the candidates as well. At this point representatives from each of the interview panels will meet with the Mayor, City Administrator & the other Panel-Representatives on 4/25/23 from 9:00am to 10:00am.

- The SHRC Chair had a brief conversation with City Council Staff on 4/19/23 about SHRC --RESOLUTION 2023-002, which the resolution was regarding the process of hiring the director of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion and the Commission's commitment to the public format of the community forum. The Council Staff member at that time indicated that the City Council was looking into taking action on the Commission's Resolution.
- Also, on 4/28/23 the SHRC Chair received an email from the Commissions' City Council Liaison about SHRC -- RESOLUTION 2023-002, in which the email was looking for input on possible City Council action on the Commission's Resolution.

❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the May 4, 2023 SHRC meeting event.
- Posted several times about the "Community Conversation on Homelessness: Kick-off Event for Community Members to Share Input" event held at the Downtown/Central Library on 4/13/23, here is a link to watch the video of the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nJNLWQk6pc>.
- Posted the SHRC--RESOLUTION 2023-002 adopted on 4/6/23, which the resolution was regarding the process of hiring the director of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion and the Commission's commitment to the public format of the community forum.
- Posted about the "Spokane Regional Collaborative on Homelessness: Coming Together with Community" event held at the Downtown/Central Library on 4/24/23.
- Posted a news story from KHQ about an Art exhibit at Spokane City Hall that features the work of Asian Americans, which the exhibit will be open to the public through 5/26/23 in the Chase Gallery next to City Council Chambers.