



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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	Ordinance Addressing City-Owned Property	Alex Gibilisco, Equity Director
6:05-6:25	American Indian Community Center: Cultural Programs/Services	Margo Hill, Board Director
6:25-6:40	Frontier Behavioral Health: Mental Health Wellness	Jeff Thomas, Executive Director
6:40-7:00	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive</li> <li>• Outreach</li> <li>• Civic Impact</li> </ul>	

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>July 6<sup>th</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

June 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 Chair attended the 5/1/23 "May Day Rally" co-hosted by [Hispanic Business/ Professional Association \(HBPA\)](#) and [Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane \(PJALS\)](#), which the event was to advocate for immigrant/undocumented & agricultural workers' rights.
- The President of the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF) sent an email to the SHRC Chair, which the topic of the email was about the continued & future collaboration with the SHRC & the SCHRTF. At that point the SHRC Chair confirmed the Commissions' commitment to our partnership with the SCHRTF.
- The SHRC City Council Liaison sent an email to the SHRC Chair on the topic of the SHRC--RESOLUTION 2023-002 adopted by the Commission on 4/6/23, which that Resolution was under consideration by City Council. [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](#). Due to some issues the City Council will not be going forward with these at this point because it might be a moot by the end of the month, but there may be other options if the OCREI Director has been appointed by then.

- The SHRC Chair attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “prayer-walk” for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) on 5/5/23, which the event was hosted by the [MAC Movement](#).
- The [Fig Tree Newspaper](#) published a news article about the SHRC, which is titled [“Human Rights Commission focus is education and advocacy”](#).
- On 5/13/23 the SHRC had a booth at the [Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Day & Family Fun Fair](#); participating at the booth was Commissioner Arballo-Saenz, Commissioner Koh, Commissioner Kissler, Vice-Chair Commissioner Schreibman, and Chair Peace.
- The Mayor’s Office reached out to the SHRC Chair to find out how many hours of volunteer-work Commissioners did in April 2023, for the “Spokane Gives Volunteerism Count”. The SHRC Executive Committee determined that for the month of April 2023 the Commissions' 9 SHRC Commissioners did around 80 hours of volunteer-work in our community.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to & communicate with several City Administration Staff Members and City Council Staff regarding SHRC budgetary issues and other matters relating to Commission business.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 5/18/23.
- The SHRC Chair on 5/20/23 was an invited panelist for a panel on the topic of [“Police Radicalization & Reform”](#), hosted by the Young Democrats of Washington for their Annual-Convention held at the North Central High School. Follow panelist were Debbie Novak (the mother of David Novak who was killed by Spokane Police in 2019) and Professor Vik Gumbhir (Gonzaga Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminology) with Moderator Madysen McClain.
- The SHRC Chair confirmed with [Frontier Behavioral Health Executive Director Jeff Thomas](#) about their presentation at the SHRC June meeting, Commissioner Hernandez-Peck suggested this presentation to the Chair a few months ago.

- The SHRC Chair confirmed with the American Indian Community Center -Board of Directors Chair Professor Margo Hill about their presentation at the SHRC June meeting, which the SHRC Chair also spoke with Professor Hill about this matter on 5/5/23.
- The SHRC Chair was interviewed by KREM News on 5/24/23, which the news story is titled Spokane Police Department buys new restraint tool to improve detainment methods.
- Regularly communicated with the SHRC Executive Committee last month about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.

#### ❖ **OCREI**

- The SHRC Chair reached out to & communicate with several City Administration Staff Members and City Council Staff regarding ORREI and other matters relating to Commission business & SHRC budgetary issues.
- The SHRC Chair once again was able to again have some brief conversations with several **“External-Panel”** members, which those panel-members once again 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> **“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. On 5/21/23 the SHRC Chair learned that the Mayor’s Office & the City Administrator held a meeting with a potential Director candidate, who was outside of the original candidate pool of 5 people.

## ❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the June 1, 2023 SHRC meeting event.
- Posted a news story from the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, on the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women May 5th Actions Calling for Justice.
- Posted about the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Prayer Walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Persons event hosted by Spokane's MAC Movement.
- Posted about the "Showings & Open Mic" event about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Persons, held at the Magic Lantern Theater on 5/5/23.
- Re-posted a post from APIC Spokane about proclamation of "Asian & Asian American Heritage Month" from Spokane City Council on 5/8/23.
- Re-posted several times a post from Spokane United We Stand about the "Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Days" on 5/12/23—5/13/23 held at Riverfront Park.
- Re-posted a post from the Carl Maxey Center about "Community Outreach Free Legal Clinics and Self-Help Resources" from 5/18/23—6/28/23, which these events are hosted by the Carl Maxey Center in partnership with the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition.
- Posted a news story from the Fig Tree Magazine in which the SHRC Chair was interviewed, and the title of the story is Human Rights Commission focus is education and advocacy.
- Re-posted a post from Commissioner Kissler which was picture of the SHRC's booth at the "Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Days" on 5/13/23.
- Posted about the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spokane Valley Connect on 5/18/23, which is a one-stop shopping for a wide variety of needs & services including haircuts, medical services, dental, showers, warrant quashing, legal services, a hot lunch, housing assistance, a food bank, and clothing bank with summer clothing for adults and children.

- Posted about the event “Coffee with a Commissioner” on 5/23/23 at the Downtown Central Library, which this event is a reoccurring-event held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month between 12:00-1:00 pm to get to know your Human Rights Commissioners and share your concerns over a cup of coffee in an inviting, open space held at the southeast corner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in Conference Room B & Lounge.
- Re-posted a post from the City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission, which was a picture of the 4 Police Ombudsman Commissioners posing outside of City Hall.