



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Sep 7<sup>th</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-7:30 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):

5:40-7:00	Presentation: Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund	Lerria Schuh
7:00-7:15	Discussion/1st Read: "Human Rights & Basic Dignity"	Commissioners
7:15-7:30	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>Oct 5<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.

## Inquiry Program Information

0110

UNENCUMBERED BALANCE

Date

07/05/2023

### Inquiry Results

#### Results

07/05/2023

Code	Short Description	BN - NET BUDGET FFF 01/2023 13/2023	ACTUALS FFF 01/13 2023	EN - ENCUMBRANCE FFF 01/2023 13/2023	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE
54999	OTHMISCHGS	2,500.00	175.00	0.00	2,325.00
Grand total		2,500.00	175.00	0.00	2,325.00



## Chair's Report

September 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**

- A City Council Member on 8/4/23 reached out to the SHRC Chair about an upcoming SHRC Resolution.
- At the end of last month a reporter from [Range Media](#) reached out to the SHRC Chair to do an interview and story about the Mayoral Veto of ORD C36402, relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. This Range Media news story was published on 8/10/23, titled "[Racist statue removal stalled: 'Who is this wait worth it for?'](#)".
- On 8/10/23 a reporter from Spokesman-Review newspaper reached out to the SHRC Chair to do an interview and story about the Mayoral Veto of ORD C36402, relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. This Spokesman-Review news story was published on 8/10/23, titled "[Process to review offensive landmarks, street names in Spokane vetoed by Woodward](#)".
- A member of the [Citizens' Advisory Council](#) reached out to SHRC Chair, in order to thank the SHRC for all of our hard work on ORD C36402 relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. Plus, this Citizens' Advisory Council member also offered the SHRC this [Maya](#)

Angelou quote when looking at the issue of the Mayoral Veto of ORD C36402: "*We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated*".

- On 8/12/23 the SHRC had a booth at the event "Unity in the Community" held at Riverfront Park; participating at the booth was Commissioner Arballo-Saenz, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Knox, and Commissioner Kissler.
- The City of Spokane Police Ombudsman reached out to SHRC Chair, in order to reschedule a meeting between us to discuss "*Human Rights & Public-Safety*". This meeting will now happen 9/6/23.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund Executive Director Lerria Schuh, in order to have the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund give a presentation to the Commission at the September meeting. The presentation would be about that organizations' work in our community regarding helping to *ensure vulnerable residents have access to tools & resources to thrive*, as well as their work to *eradicate the systemic causes that lead to poverty including racism & inequities in student treatments, incarceration, health & health care, unaffordable housing, domestic violence, addiction, under & unemployment, racial & gender inequities, wage & benefit disparities and unplanned pregnancies*. Lerria Schuh agreed to this presentation.
- Early last month a reporter from Range Media reached out to the SHRC Chair to do an interview and story about highlighting the future work of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI) with its new Director Jerrall Haynes. This Range Media news story was published on 8/23/23, titled "What Spokane's new office of civil rights will do".
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 8/24/23.
- City Council Staff on 8/27/23 reached out to the SHRC Chair about the \*new\* Resolution regarding the Spokane Regional Authority on Homelessness, which City Council voted &

passed this Resolution on 8/28/23. *(attached to this email is the PDF of the \*new\* Resolution).*

- A City Council Member on 8/28/23 reached out to the SHRC Chair, due to some citizen feedback that the City Council received over testimony that was made as an individual by the Chair on the topic of Police matters. The SHRC Chair then informed the SHRC Executive Committee about this matter.
- Regularly communicated with the SHRC Executive Committee last month about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.

#### ❖ **OCREI**

- Regularly communicated with the OCREI Director Jerrall Haynes last month, about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.

#### ❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the September 7, 2023 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Posted a news story from Range Media in which the SHRC Chair did an interview for the story that was published on 8/10/23 titled "[Racist statue removal stalled: 'Who is this wait worth it for?'](#)", about ORD C36402 relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. There was a Mayoral Veto of ORD C36402, which that Veto was also posted in the comment section.
- Posted a news story from the Spokesman-Review newspaper in which the SHRC Chair did an interview for the story on 8/10/23 titled "[Process to review offensive landmarks, street names in Spokane vetoed by Woodward](#)", about ORD C36402 relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. There was a Mayoral Veto of ORD C36402, which that Veto was also posted in the comment section.

- Posted about the SHRC event "Coffee with a Commissioner" held on 8/22/23 at the Spokane Public Library Hillyard Branch.
- Posted about the SHRC event-booth at "Unity in the Community" held on 8/12/23 at Riverfront Park.
- Re-posted a post from the City of Spokane about Cooling Resources Available During Predicted Extreme Heat.
- Re-posted a post from Council Member Zack Zappone about the activation of a Fire-Shelter at Spokane Falls Community College.
- Posted a news story from Range Media in which the SHRC Chair did an interview for the story on 8/23/23 titled "What Spokane's new office of civil rights will do", which this story highlighted the future work of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI) with its new Director Jerrall Haynes.
- Re-posted a post from the Spokane NAACP, which was a statement condemning recent acts of regional hate and racist vandalism in our community.
- Re-posted a post from Nuestras Raíces Centro Comunitario & Spokane United We Stand about their community event on 9/17/23 celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month, Mexican Independence Day (September) and Filipino Heritage Month (October) held at Southside Senior Center.



## RESOLUTION 2023-03

### **A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness.**

WHEREAS, The City of Spokane knows the issue of homelessness is one of the most pressing and complex situations encountered by our society. In developing public policy to be established on this matter, whether short-termed or immediate, emphasis should be given to attending to the basic needs of the homeless to enable the preservation of the dignity of these human beings ~~and~~ in their circumstances;

WHEREAS, The City of Spokane should reassert its constitutional commitment to hold that all people ~~men and women~~ are equal before the law and that there must be no discrimination whatsoever for reason of race, color, sex, age, birth, social condition, origin, ~~or~~ political, ~~or~~ religious ideas or any other legally protected class. It is also aware of the fact that homelessness threatens healthy community living among people, as it can reveal attitudes of insensitivity, contempt, harshness, shunning and fear towards those experiencing homelessness;

WHEREAS, Respect for the dignity of human beings and equality before the law are principles which are fundamental and nonexpendable to guarantee the common good and healthy community living as a people. People experiencing homelessness are a direct reflection and the most dramatic outcome of the complexities of our society. These are human beings of various ages and with diverse levels of education and backgrounds with unmet basic needs, with human rights which are frequently infringed, who also have talents and dreams, and who have inner and outer strengths, from which hope is forged.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission hereby requests that the City Council create a framework of protections to address shelter inadequacies and operations in city limits and add protections in municipal code for our society's most vulnerable population. An example of this policy would be as follows:



## Title 18.05 Protections for Homeless People

### Subsection 18.05. \_\_\_ Concerning Human Rights of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

No person's rights, privileges, or access to public services and accommodations may be denied or abridged solely because they are experiencing homelessness. Such a person shall be granted the same rights and privileges as any other resident of the City of Spokane. A person experiencing homelessness:

- (1) Has the right to use and move freely in public spaces, including, but not limited to, public sidewalks, public parks, public transportation and public buildings, in the same manner as any other person, and without discrimination on the basis of their housing status;
- (2) Has the right to equal treatment by all municipal agencies, without discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- (3) Has the right not to face discrimination while seeking or maintaining employment due to their lack of permanent mailing address, or their mailing address being that of a shelter or social service provider;
- (4) Has the right to emergency medical and psychiatric care, free from discrimination based on their housing status;
- (5) Has the right to vote, register to vote, and receive documentation necessary to prove identity for voting without discrimination due to their housing status;
- (6) Has the right to protection from disclosure of their records and information provided to homeless shelters and service providers to federal, state, municipal and private entities without appropriate legal authority; and the right to confidentiality of personal records and information in accordance with all limitations on disclosure established by the Federal Homeless Management Information Systems, the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the Federal Violence Against Women Act; and
- (7) Has the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in their personal property to the same extent as personal property in a permanent residence.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-0075

**A RESOLUTION** concerning the proposal by the Spokane Regional Collaborative for a Spokane Regional Authority for Homelessness, Housing, Health and Safety.

**WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution 2023-0018, approving in principle a 90-day due diligence period during which the Spokane Regional Collaborative (SRC) would explore the feasibility of creating a regional authority to address homelessness in Spokane County, including the City of Spokane and neighboring municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane initially joined Spokane County and the cities of Spokane Valley, Medical Lake, Airway Heights, and Cheney, all later joined by the City of Liberty Lake, in support of the SRC effort; and

**WHEREAS**, the 90-day due diligence work was completed by SRC on June 28, 2023, and the SRC presented a set of recommendations and draft legal documents for the creation of a public corporation pursuant to RCW 35.21 and RCW 39.34.030, designated the “Spokane Regional Authority for Homelessness, Housing, Health, and Safety” (hereafter the “regional authority”), which said documents included a proposed interlocal agreement (“ILA”) that would commit the City of Spokane to long-term participation in the regional authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is generally supportive of a joint and cooperative undertaking to coordinate and provide homeless and housing services within the Spokane region, and agrees that a regional authority, if properly configured and its operational expenses fairly apportioned, could improve the delivery of homelessness, affordable housing and behavioral health services and could enhance outcomes for those receiving such services in Spokane County; and

**WHEREAS**, the SRC presented the City Council, along with other legislative bodies of Spokane County and municipalities with Spokane County, a draft resolution styled “ A Resolution of Spokane County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley and Cities of Medical Lake, Airway Heights, Cheney, and Liberty Lake in support of providing leadership and staff support for the period of August 1, 2023, through October 15, 2023” (hereafter, the “SRC Resolution”), and whereby pursuant to the SRC Resolution the City Council would consent to making City of Spokane data, resources and personnel available to the SRC; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 31, 2023, the City Council deferred adoption of the SRC Resolution based in part on concerns regarding a lack of full, regular, and timely accounting of all costs, funding and outcomes associated with the City’s commitment of resources and personnel to housing and homelessness initiatives, including all costs associated with the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (“TRAC”); and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s administration has been unable to provide to the City Council a complete accounting of all costs, funding and outcomes associated with the City’s investment in housing and homelessness initiatives, including all costs associated with TRAC; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2023, the Mayor of Spokane issued Executive Order 2023-002, committing city leadership and staff support to the SRC with the intent of creating a regional authority for housing and homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council agrees, in principle, with providing the SRC such information regarding the City's funding of programs such that the SRC can further develop the details of funding, staffing, contracts and governance of the proposed regional authority, and further agrees that sharing of City data can inform the final drafting and execution of the legal documents necessary to form the Authority under RCW 35.21 and RCW 39.34; and

**WHEREAS**, while willing to explore the creation of a regional authority, the City Council recognizes that creation of such authority and the City's participation in it requires a detailed, unhurried and deliberative process, and the City Council views the current timelines established by the SRC for both creation of the regional authority and the City's commitment to be unrealistic; and

**WHEREAS**, no mechanism has been identified by the SRC or Executive Order 2023-002 to determine the type and classification of City data to be shared with the SRC, and whether sharing of such data will require written agreement under RCW 39.34.240 or otherwise require special protocols for redaction and sharing under RCW 42.56, nor is there any formal understanding regulating the SRC's use and sharing of said data; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane's Community, Health and Human Services department is understaffed and confronted with numerous existing challenges, and consequently is not currently equipped to provide data and personnel to the SRC on an accelerated basis; and

**WHEREAS**, any effort to combat homelessness and housing issues in Spokane is heavily dependent on the efforts of outside providers with expertise in providing homelessness, affordable housing, and behavioral health services, many of whom have expressed concerns about a regional authority and its initial governing principles, and whose input on the formation and operation of a regional authority must be considered by the City Council as it deliberates on the wisdom of participating in the regional authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Continuum of Care Board, CHHS Board, Homeless Coalition, and Experience Matters Spokane, all with expertise in homelessness, housing and behavioral health services and the related funding for such services, have submitted to the City Council their suggestions on the proposed regional authority, which must inform the final configuration of the regional authority, and whose written statements are attached to this resolution;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 39.35.030, the City of Spokane's participation in any regional public authority can only be approved by the City Council of the City of Spokane, as the legislative body of the City of Spokane pursuant to Section 5 of the Spokane City Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council believes the better approach for a regional effort to end homelessness and improve housing availability is to commit to formation of a regional authority via a limited, short-term ILA, solely for purposes of allowing its governing board, initial personnel and interested providers an opportunity to identify the long-term operational, financial, and programmatic needs of the regional authority, including its sources of revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, once an existing regional authority and its governing board, initial personnel and interested providers have an opportunity to provide to participating jurisdictions detailed recommendations (along with any revised governance documents) relating to the proposed regional authority, all participating jurisdictions, including the City of Spokane, can then decide whether to participate in the regional authority on any long-term basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is willing to endorse a short-term commitment to a regional authority, and willing to provide short-term funding for its operations, based on certain terms and conditions set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding Executive Order 2023-002, the City Council wishes to establish clear limitations on the sharing of City data and personnel with the SRC to ensure that such sharing of information is consistent with state and local law, and is consistent with the information shared with the City Council with respect to its deliberations regarding the proposed regional authority and overall funding of its homelessness, housing, public safety, or health programs; and

**WHEREAS**, considering Executive Order 2023-002 and the expectations it creates about the intentions of the City of Spokane within and among the other jurisdictions asked to participate in the Authority, it is essential for the City Council to express its views on the extent and timing of the City's participation in the Authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, notwithstanding Executive Order 2023-002, the City Council will not undertake to evaluate or approve the City's participation in any regional authority unless any and all City statistical data, information, accounting, financial or other information pertaining to its homelessness, housing, public safety or health programs, personnel and strategies that is shared with either the SRC or any persons or entity working in furtherance toward the study, creation, and/or funding of the Authority is fully and simultaneously shared with the City Council; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if Spokane County, the City of Spokane Valley, and other potential participating jurisdictions enter a short-term commitment to a regional authority, and also commit to an initial investment of start-up funds for the regional authority in year 2024, the City of Spokane, through its City Council, is willing to commit to short-term participation in a regional authority and commit to an equal investment of start-up funds for the regional authority on the following terms:

- The SRC identifies the amount of funding needed in 2024 to operate the regional authority on a temporary basis, provides a detailed budget for operations through December 31, 2024, and identifies the expected start-up contribution from each

- jurisdiction, all in a form acceptable to the City Council;
- The existing draft ILA is revised to conform to the short-term commitment of the City of Spokane and other jurisdictions, in a form acceptable to the City Council and with the expectation that participating jurisdictions will approve the revised ILA by January 1, 2024;
  - The existing draft charter is revised to confine the primary scope of the regional authority to housing and homelessness issues, and to limit its interest in public safety and criminal detention;
  - The existing draft charter of the regional authority is revised to provide that Non-Elected Sector Board Members for the regional authority will be selected by the Governing Board based on nominations from the non-elected sector;
  - The existing draft charter shall be revised to provide that, notwithstanding any other provisions in the Charter or the ILA, each participating jurisdiction shall have the right to withdraw from the regional authority based on any changes in state and federal law that alter or restrict the governing structure or powers of the Governing Board;
  - The existing draft charter of the regional authority is revised as necessary to ensure the regional authority does not assume any indebtedness until execution of a permanent ILA;
  - The existing draft charter of the regional authority is revised as necessary to ensure no substantive decisions or actions of the regional authority, including hiring of permanent personnel, are made until there is a full complement of board members from the Non-Elected Sector;
  - Article XV, Section 4 of the draft charter is revised to provide all participating jurisdictions a right of inspection, examination, auditing and copying equal to rights granted to Spokane County;
  - From the date of this resolution, the SRC, and later the regional authority governing body, provides monthly, in-person updates to the City Council and the Mayor of the formation, operational terms, and long-term planning efforts of the regional authority;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the City Council will consider participation in a regional authority after 2024, and execution of permanent ILA, only after the following:

- Detailed and realistic plan for operations and funding of the regional authority acceptable to the City Council;
- Development and adoption of bylaws of the regional authority acceptable to the City Council and that ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the decision-making structure;
- Comprehensive and informed plan for funding of the regional authority independent of restricted grant funds;
- Comprehensive, fair, and informed plan for transfer of current program funding of all jurisdictions;
- Comprehensive, informed, and fair plan for transfer of employees of the City of Spokane to regional authority;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City Council reserves the right to elect not to remain a participating jurisdiction in the regional authority after the year 2024, and reserves the right to withdraw from any commitment to a regional authority prior to execution of a permanent ILA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council reserves the right to condition any approval of a permanent ILA on a detailed plan to relieve the City of the operational and capital expenses associated with TRAC sometime in the year 2024.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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City Clerk

Approved as to form:

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Assistant City Attorney

## CoC Board Recommendations

To Spokane Unite,

The Spokane Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) mission is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring in our area by fostering shared responsibility among stakeholders and coordinating resources essential to the success of local plans to end homelessness. The CoC vision is to bring together resources and resourceful people who create a community where everyone has a safe, stable place to call home.

In a collective effort to address and engage in the CoC mission and values, the CoC board acknowledges the proposed shared responsibility of Spokane Unite as it engages in the homeless service delivery system over the past 90-days. As the creation of a community lead Public Development Authority (PDA) will have overlapping impacts on the operating structure of the homeless system as a whole. The CoC board sets forth the following recommendations and expectations as Spokane Unite develops a PDA, with the potential expectation of entering a competitive RFP process as a qualified Collaborative Applicant (CA) for the CoC Board:

- Facilitate adherence to the preexisting responsibilities, reporting terms, major deliverables, and activities of the CoC MOU agreement with current Collaborative Applicant and CMIS MOU agreement.
- Compliance to a non-conflicted competitive RFP process.
- PDA to provide appropriate human resources for transfer of knowledge or merge current Collaborative Applicant overhead into PDA operational structure.
- PDA to maintain compliance with HUD CoC board and CA obligations, maintaining autonomy from the PDA leadership board as it relates to CoC HUD funded projects.
- To have CoC representation as a voting member on the PDA leadership board.
- Designated CoC board representatives will participate in the PDA selection process of a CEO.
- The designated CEO and CoC board will jointly review and score qualified applicants for representation on the PDA leadership board outside of municipal representation.
- PDA to review and consolidate CoC board survey outcomes as it relates to CA performance and provide actionable steps for performance improvement.

The CoC board acknowledges and appreciates Spokane Unites dedication and service to our most vulnerable community members, thank you for your time and efforts.

Continuum of Care Board

Community Housing and Human Services Board  
City of Spokane  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

August 24, 2023

Spokane City Council Office  
City Hall, 7th Floor  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

Subject: CHHS Board Recommendations for the Proposed Spokane Regional Homelessness PDA

Dear Spokane City Council,

As the voluntary citizen advisory board created by Spokane Ordinance No. 35707 to guide Spokane's community, housing, and human services, we have closely monitored the proposed establishment of a Spokane Regional Public Development Authority for Homelessness. We agree that a reduction in homelessness can be achieved more effectively through a regional approach. The recent proposal points out many challenges our community is facing. However, we are concerned that the current proposal fails to address how these challenges will actually be better addressed by a PDA than the infrastructure already in place. Before voting to join this regional authority, the CHHS Board respectfully requests that the concerns listed below be addressed.

1. The current timeline is too accelerated to determine if a PDA is the best option for our community, let alone get a PDA setup correctly. Allow 18 months for the appropriate planning and systems analysis.
2. An assessment of what's currently broken with the existing system and how we fix it needs to be provided to ensure that a new system will not recreate ineffective processes. A better understanding of the cost benefit analysis of establishing a new PDA versus improving the existing system is needed.
3. Evaluating the extent of regional collaboration currently taking place is needed. This should include if current collaboration is sufficient or where it falls short, and what we could do to enhance regional collaboration efforts. A valuable contribution would be to unify the City 5yr Consolidated Plan, the County 5yr Consolidated Plan, and the City/County 5yr Strategic Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (not to mention homelessness projects like Built for Zero) into a single master plan that will satisfy all agencies and that we can all work from together.



4. An informed budget to support the functions and responsibilities of the proposed Authority has not been provided. Specifically, an explanation of the cost of implementing the new Authority and details about where the funding will originate from, whether that's federal, state, local, or private sources, is needed.
5. The proposed decision-making structure of the PDA and for the allocation of resources has not been adequately reasoned or debated. Transparency, accountability and efficiency in the decision-making process should be prioritized.
6. The current proposal does not demonstrate an accurate understanding of the CHHS funding sources, or the requirements imposed on the use of funds from those funding sources. Administration of grants and managing the funding received by the City from various sources is complex and regulated. The current proposal has no regard for these funding requirements or the funding cycles. Transparent communication with HUD and other funding partners is needed.
7. A plan needs to be provided for the preservation of current CHHS staff who hold important institutional knowledge that is critical for navigating the complexity of restrictions and specified purposes for the use and distribution of funds that the City of Spokane's CHHS department manages.
8. There is no new money included in the proposal for the PDA. Our community already doesn't have enough money to fund existing shelters, we certainly don't have money for the establishment of a PDA. Grant funds cannot be earmarked for creating a regional PDA. We must follow the regulations for spending CHHS funds.
9. Scope creep of the proposed PDA needs to be addressed. The community was invited into a discussion about a Regional Authority on Homelessness, but we were presented with a PDA that would take on the affordable housing funding and unexplained health and safety funding. While we recognize that all of these areas are connected and overlap, research and evidence needs to be provided that all of these funding sources would be better administered through this single source.
10. The utilization of detention as specified in the proposal must be better defined or omitted. It is imperative that we understand what is meant by detention in terms of the criminal justice implications, the services that would be provided, the resources that would be allocated, and how this would be funded. Criminalization of homelessness does not address the causes of homelessness, and policies must reflect intended outcomes that provide positive improvements for all affected parties.

We must keep moving ahead while the planning for long term solutions and a regional approach is being pursued. Our community has current, pressing needs that the City has an obligation to address, including preparing for the cold season. CHHS staff and service providers are preparing for the HOME, HOME ARP, CDBG, and HHOS funding cycles, totaling \$16.3M annually. Review of

proposals is set for this fall and many of these funds are under strict timeliness rules that could endanger future funding if those requirements are not met. The city hired a highly competent manager in Jenn Cerecedes. In turn, Jenn has hired a full complement of staff and is turning around the challenges that she inherited upon taking the job (such as the timeliness of executing service provider contracts and conducting the required evaluation of contractors). We need these people, highly technical and well trained, to continue the good work they are doing to get us on the right track with Commerce, HUD and other funding sources, and to meet our regulatory requirements, otherwise the continued revenue cannot be ensured.

The CHHS Board welcomes collaboration with our elected officials and Spokane Unite to make a significant and lasting impact on homelessness in our region. We appreciate your attention to our concerns and recommendations and look forward to contributing to the success of this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Jeri Rathbun

Board Chair

Community Housing and Human Services Board

City of Spokane

[jrathbun@spokanecity.org](mailto:jrathbun@spokanecity.org)



Education - Advocacy - Support - Networking - Sharing of Resources

[www.spokanehc.com](http://www.spokanehc.com)

Dear Spokane Unite,

The Spokane Homeless Coalition (SHC) is a coalition comprised of community stakeholders representing multiple organizations, residents, volunteers, those with lived experience and service providers who compassionately care in the front lines, facilitating service delivery to those disenfranchised from the system and experiencing houselessness. The SHC is primarily utilized as an educational platform, sparking collaborative conversations around opportunities for advocacy and system support. The SHC collectively, is a proactive network of providers who routinely engage in the sharing of resources around a high-risk population group.

As Spokane Unite develops a Public Development Authority, our hope as the SHC leadership is that you take into consideration the following recommendations as you develop a PDA which will impact our SHC members (1300+). The following recommendations include:

- An appointed PDA leadership board member is required to attend SHC meetings, the first Thursday of each month.
- The designated PDA CEO utilizes the SHC as the primary communication platform for monthly updates as it relates to homelessness and the affiliated system impacts.
- SHC representative is designated as having a seat on the stakeholder committee group developed by the PDA.
- SHC representative sits on the PDA leadership board as a non-voting member for consultative support related to system impacts.
- Relating to PDA awarded RFP applications, organizations awarded are required to utilize SHC as the educational platform to inform service providers of awarded service and implications on the system change.
- The PDA provides appropriate technology to record SHC monthly meetings.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Dr. Robert Lippman, DBH, MSW**  
Spokane Homeless Coalition - Chair

[robert.lippman@providence.org](mailto:robert.lippman@providence.org)

He/Him/His



Dear Members of the Spokane City Council and Spokane County Commissioners,

We, the undersigned constituents, housing providers, and homelessness service providers, and community organizations of Spokane, write this collective letter to express our deep concern regarding the current timeline for the implementation of the Regional Homeless Authority. We fully understand the urgency of addressing homelessness in our community, and we believe that a prudent and well-thought-out approach is crucial to ensuring the success and effectiveness of this vital initiative.

The issue of homelessness is complex and requires a comprehensive and inclusive solution. We commend the efforts made by the Spokane City Council and Spokane County Commissioners and other stakeholders in developing the proposed plan for a Regional Homeless Authority, which holds the potential to transform the lives of many individuals and families experiencing homelessness. However, we believe that the current timeline will not allow for adequate planning, community engagement, and stakeholder coordination, which are essential elements to creating a sustainable and effective system.

Therefore, we are respectfully requesting a pause in the implementation timeline based on the following concerns:

1. **Community Input:** The success of the Regional Homeless Authority relies heavily on active participation and input from involved stakeholders, including those with lived experiences of homelessness, service providers, community organizations, and residents. A rushed timeline will limit the opportunity for these essential voices to be heard and considered in the decision-making process.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Establishing an effective Regional Homeless Authority requires careful allocation of resources, both in terms of funding and personnel. Extending the timeline through December will allow for local jurisdictions to make crucial budget and staffing decisions. Rushing the process will lead to suboptimal resource distribution and potentially jeopardize the long-term success of the initiative.
3. **Data Collection and Analysis:** To address homelessness effectively, we need accurate and comprehensive data about its root causes and current trends. Extending timeline will allow for a more robust data collection process and better analysis, leading to more informed and equitable decision-making.
4. **Implementation Preparedness:** Properly setting up the Regional Homeless Authority necessitates detailed planning, staff training, and coordination with existing service providers. Extending the timeline will provide the necessary time to ensure a smooth transition and minimize potential disruptions to current services.
5. **Polarizing Political Landscape:** The current timeline supports making these critical decisions during potentially, polarizing local elections and the community will be best served by moving these activities to a window after the election.

Considering these factors, we respectfully request the Spokane City Council and Spokane County Commissioners to consider postponing the implementation timeline of the Regional Homeless Authority. Allowing for additional time for planning, community engagement, and collaboration, will enhance the probability of establishing an effective and sustainable approach to combating homelessness in our region. We are asking for the current October 15th timeline be moved to December 15th.

We firmly believe that working together as a community and taking a thoughtful and measured approach will lead to better outcomes for all residents of Spokane. We are ready and willing to contribute our efforts and expertise to support this important endeavor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your thoughtful consideration of our request and look forward to working together to address homelessness in Spokane effectively.

Sincerely,

**Organizations:**

1. Smith Barbieri
2. Cup of Cool Water
3. Compassionate Addiction Treatment
4. Tenant's Union of Washington State
5. Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium
6. Jewel's Helping Hands
7. Transitions
8. Spokane Valley Community Advocates
9. YOYOT SPQ'N'I
10. Northwest Fair Housing
11. Triumph
12. Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane
13. Revive Counseling
14. The Revive Center for Returning Citizens
15. NAACP #1137
16. Spokane Continuum of Care Board
17. Spokane Community Against Racism SCAR
18. Mujeres in Action
19. Community Minded Enterprises
20. Community Frameworks
21. Health Justice Recovery Alliance
22. Empire Health Foundation
23. West Central Development Group
24. Greater Spokane Progress
25. Nuestras Raices Community Center and Hispanic Business

**Individuals:**

1. Brianna Dilts, Faith Action Network
2. Driamarijn Petraclare-George
3. Cathryn Maland, CEO, Triumph Community Services
4. Florence Munat
5. Mackenzie Lofrese
6. Jaime Smith
7. Greater Spokane Progress
8. Alisa Katz
9. Thomas Grey West central Development
10. Emily Rankin

11. Fernanda Mazcot, Executive Director for Nuestras Raices Community Center and Hispanic Business Professional Association
12. Ben Stuckart, ED SLIHC
13. Chandler Wheeler, District 1 constituent, Outreach Manager at Odyssey Youth Movement
14. Micah Tareski
15. Melissa McNair-Davis
16. Richard Weber - Revive Spokane - FCS Housing Specialist
17. Piper Leary
18. Jewels Helping Hands
19. Ami Manning, HEART-Spokane Alliance, SLIHC
20. Daniel Geiter
21. Marissa Jenks-Barajas
22. Katie Haney
23. Jordan Sheets
24. Adir Blüm
25. Marley Hochendoner, Executive Director, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance
26. Pink Varela
27. Megra Flatman
28. Marcia Via
29. Ian Cunningham, Board Chair for Community-MInded Enterprises
30. Cora Baumann
31. Dylan Brown
32. Ian A Cunningham
33. Deborah Svoboda
34. Kimberly Clifton
35. Chris Sheller
36. Sr. Pat Millen OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
37. Julie Garcia, Executive Director-Jewel's Helping Hands
38. Layne Pavey, LICSW, CPC, Executive Director, Revive Counseling Spokane
39. Meredith Devey
40. Virginia Clark
41. Casey Bowers, constituent
42. Amie Kim
43. john alder RAP/tenants union /housing alliance
44. Tara Mugica; Transitions
45. Heather Fourstar
46. Silas Eroaldi
47. Megan Curran, Permanent Supportive Housing Director at Transitions
48. Eva Zertuche
49. Hannah Nelson
50. johnny saldana with pioneer human services rnp
51. Hannel Sanchez, MiA - Mujeres in Action
52. M.E. Martin

53. Alice Aliré
54. Mike Maldonado
55. Becca Ediger
56. Angel Tomeo-Sam-YOYOT SPQ'N'I
57. Marilyn Darilek
58. Elizabeth Ballou
59. Darren White
60. Diana Washington
61. Justice Forral Spokane Community Against Racism
62. Rachel Clark
63. Jill Walters, WCDP, HEART, West Central Resident
64. Liz Moore, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane
65. Blake Waltman, Cup of Cool Water
66. Wyatt Colombo
67. Aj Sanchez YAB
68. Elizabeth Haley
69. Miriah Hapa
70. Hallie Burchinal, Compassionate Addiction Treatment
71. Koa Otis
72. Sherri Gangitano, Director/Community Coordinator, Spokane Valley Community Advocates-SVCA
73. Sarah M. Lickfold, Transitions
74. Lerria Schuh, Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
75. Rin Ragudo
76. Ted Munat
77. Katherine Corrick, MS LMHC, Peer Coach with Lived Experience
78. The Revered Debra L. Conklin
79. Courtney Anderson
80. Jacci J. Bottler
81. Terri Anderson, Tenants Union of Washington State [terria@tenantsunion.org](mailto:terria@tenantsunion.org)
82. Christian McKinney, Shadle Park Presbyterian Church
83. Kurtis Robinson, President, Spokane NAACP #1137, Executive Director, The Revive Reentry Center for Returning Citizens
84. Lori Hancock
85. Mouer De'Eldred
86. Meagan Vincello, Program Director for Spokane Community Homelessness Initiative for Empire Health Foundation
87. Jonathan Teeters, Policy Director for Empire Health Foundation