



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Nov 7th, 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):

5:40-6:05	Presentation: "A Place to Exist:..."	Maurice Smith, Author & ED
6:05-6:30	SHRC Officer and Lead Elections	
6:30-7:30	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive • Outreach • Civic Impact 	

	Adjournment	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for Dec 7th, 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

November 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 worked with the City Clerk's Office, in order to complete the "Public-Records-Request" from a citizen to the Commission.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to "[Disability Rights Washington](#)" Executive Director Carrie Basas, in order to have the Spokane branch office of "[Disability Rights Washington](#)" give a presentation to the Commission at the November meeting. The presentation would be about that organizations' work in regarding *ensuring that the rights of people with disabilities statewide are protected, with their mission to advance the dignity, equality, & self-determination of people with disabilities by pursuing justice on matters related to human & legal rights.* Unfortunately, due to staffing issues at the Spokane branch office this presentation might happen in December or in early spring.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to "[Spokane Tribal Council](#)", after seeing their presentation on 10/9/23 at the Spokane City Council meeting for the proclamation honoring "*Indigenous Peoples' Day*". The Chair reached out to the Council, in order to have the "[Spokane Tribal Council](#)" give a presentation to the Commission at the November meeting. The presentation would be about that organizations' work regarding helping to *ensure the Spokane Tribe of Indians vision of achieving true sovereignty by attaining self-*

sufficiency. While preserving & enhancing the traditional values by living & teaching the inherent principles of respect, honor & integrity as embodied in their language & life-ways. Which develops strong leadership through education, accountability, experience & positive reinforcement.

Unfortunately, the SHRC Chair hasn't heard back from the Council but will circle back with them soon.

- The SHRC City Council Liaison & City Council President was sent an email by the SHRC Chair on the topic of the SHRC--RESOLUTION 2023-003 adopted by the Commission on 10/5/23, which then that Resolution was sent to the rest of the City Council for their consideration. RESOLUTION 2023-03--A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- On 10/12/23 the SHRC Chair attended an event "Crosswalk to Crosswalk Walk Against Hate", which was hosted by the City of Spokane-Municipal Government and the City of Spokane was walking against hate, following recent & repeated vandalism to the crosswalk & Odyssey building in the Perry District along with the mural at Spokane Falls Blvd. & Howard. The walk took about an hour and was 3 miles long, in which City-Staff-Leaders guided the group on the route.
- A reporter from the Spokesman-Review newspaper reached out to the SHRC Chair to do an interview and story about the "Spokane County Sheriff's Office unpublishes its Facebook page amid backlash over investigation into sergeant". During that interview the Chair talked to the Reporter about the fact that the previous Sheriff had used that Sheriff's Office Facebook page to *personally-attack* 2 Human Rights Commissioners, which these facts weren't included in the news story. The 1st time the previous Sheriff came after a Human Rights Commissioner was in 2017, "Spokane Human Rights Commission will apologize to sheriff's office for comments on Facebook". The 2nd time was on 7/18/21, in which the Commission passed the following resolution on

8/5/21 – A RESOLUTION regarding public discourse and civic debate concerning reported rates of deadly force by Spokane police. ...and creating a “Courageous Conversation” event-series on the topic, which has yet to happen.

- The SHRC Chair reached out to Maurice Smith, Author of the 2023 book, “A Place To Exist: The True and Untold Story of Camp Hope and Homelessness in Spokane”, in order to have Mr. Smith give a presentation to the Commission at the November meeting. Mr. Smith is also the Executive Director of “Rising River Media” and the Executive Producer of “My Road Leads Home”, a 2021 documentary film series on Homelessness in Spokane. The presentation would be about that organizations’ work in our community regarding *changing the optics & narrative of what our community sees & hears regarding those experiencing homelessness, which sets a better tone for our community discussion about homelessness, a tone of seeking the Shalom of our community.* Mr. Smith agreed to this presentation, and each Commissioner will receive a copy of the book donated by the author. In the July & October Chair’s Report, the Chair mentioned that they had contributed in writing a chapter in the book about how the Police interact with our Homeless neighbors.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to several Community-Members, in order to cordially invite them to the 2023 Human Rights Champions Awards Banquet & Celebration on 11/2/23 at the Spokane Convention Center. The Commission welcomed these Community-Members to be our guest at 1 of the 2 tables we have for the event, due to all the great work they have done in our community on *“protecting & championing”* the Human Rights of all in our community. This event is hosted by the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force in partnership with the SHRC, in which this year’s **“Champions Awards”** go to the following people: Curtis Hampton - *Carl Maxy Center*, La Rae Wiley & Chris Parkins - *Salish School of Spokane*, Renee

Norris - Spokane Homeless Connect, Kiana McKenna - PICA WA, and Naghmana Sherazi - Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane (RICS).

- On 10/23/23 the SHRC Chair (as an individual) testified at City Council during "Open-Form", which the testimony was on the harm of the passing of the Council's 6/26/23 "Parks-After-Hours" Ordinance. The testimony focused on the fact that 50 days after that law was passed it was used to brutally & viciously arrest a 62-year-old man for being "in a park after hours", in which the *elderly-victim* was taken to the hospital with injuries of *8 broken ribs, a punctured lung & lip disfiguration*.
- On 10/24/23 the SHRC Chair attended the event "Coffee with a City of Spokane Human Rights Commissioner", which was held at the Shadle Park Public Library. In attendance was the SHRC City Council Liaison & Spokane Public Library Current Affairs Specialist.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 10/25/23.
- On 10/30/23 the SHRC Chair attended a private-event at City Hall with Jewish & Muslim-Community-Members and 2 City Council Members, in which the meeting was about the increased *hate crimes & hate incidents* against our Jewish & Muslim community members in the City recently.
- 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 November 7, 2023 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Posted several times about having the Community register & join us at the 2023 Human Rights Champions Awards

Banquet & Celebration, being held on 11/2/23 at the Convention Center.

- Posted 2 news stories from KLXY & KHQ about the recent & repeated Hate-Crime-Vandalism towards our LGBTQ+ Community, "[Pride crosswalks and local non-profit vandalized overnight](#)" and "[Spokane police investigating apparent vandalism to multiple city murals](#)".
- Re-posted a post from the [Spokane NAACP](#), in which the post was celebrating & honoring "[Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)".
- Re-posted a post from the Spokane-Municipal Government, about the event "[Crosswalk to Crosswalk Walk Against Hate](#)", which was hosted by the City of Spokane-Municipal Government on 10/13/23 and the City of Spokane was walking against hate, following recent & repeated vandalism to the crosswalk & Odyssey building in the Perry District along with the mural at Spokane Falls Blvd. & Howard.
- Posted the SHRC--RESOLUTION 2023-003 adopted on 10/5/23, which the [resolution was concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness](#).
- Posted a news story from KHQ about repeated Hate-Crime-Vandalism the same night and in the same area as the "Crosswalk to Crosswalk Walk Against Hate" event, "[LGBTQ+ hate attacks continue in the Perry District](#)".
- Posted a news story from the Spokesman-Review newspaper, about the "[Spokane City Council condemns hate crimes after string of anti-LGBTQ+ vandalism](#)".
- Posted a news story from the Spokesman-Review newspaper, about the "[Spokane City Council moves to make it easier for non-English speakers to interact with city government](#)".
- Posted about the "[Coffee with a City of Spokane Human Rights Commissioner](#)" event, which was held at the Shadle Park Public Library on 10/12/23.