



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Jan 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-7:30 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	Odyssey Youth Movement- Equity for LGBTQ+ Youth	Ian Sullivan
6:05-6:30	Creating the 2024 SHRC Workplan	
6:30-6:45	SHRC Officer and Lead Elections	
6:45-7:30	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive • Outreach • Civic Impact 	

	Adjournment	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for Feb 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

January 1, 2024

This report also serves as an end-of-year report to the community and Spokane City Council, as prescribed in 22.1 of the SHRC bylaws, followed by below is the January Chair's Report.

Dear Commissioners,

In 2023, we as the Spokane Human Rights Commission (SHRC) effected positive change in our community by better utilizing the tools we have, in order to enhance *Human Rights* in the Spokane area. The work of the Commission this year is something we all should be very proud of, and none of this great work could've been possible without the hard work & commitment of all 9 Commissioners –for which I wish to thank you all for your efforts this past year.

Plus, I would also like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their courage in electing me Chair starting in 2023, which I was very honored by that, and it is my hope that you all are proud of how I've held this space as Chair. Taking over as Chair a year ago I was *very scared & nervous*, and that's why I'm so *grateful for the wonderful SHRC Executive Committee* who helped ease my nerves & guided me into my new leadership role. Vice-Chair Schreibman & Secretary Harrison have been a wonderful Executive-Team, and on behalf of the Commission I want to thank them for their *tireless efforts* in making our Commission run smoothly & efficiently.

For 2023, the SHRC took a *deeper-dive* into issues that have long impacted our community and needed our focused attention & support –with the SHRC 2023 Workplan guiding the Commissions' path this year on addressing those community-issues. Throughout the year the SHRC received 20-Presentations from community-organizations, which those presentations were from 26-individuals that are

“Subject-Matter-Experts” on the issues surrounding the SHRC 2023 Workplan. Having these community partners & organizations *share-space* with us and then give their perspectives was very invaluable to the Commission, and in fact it was due to those Presentations then that became the *bedrock* of the “*work-product*” put forth by the SHRC due to the knowledge gained from the presentations.

Some of that “*work-product*” started at the 1st Commission meeting of the year, when we had a 2nd Read & vote of SHRC-Resolution 2023-001--“proposing a standard protocol for processing, considering, and acting upon citizens’ concerns about City-owned buildings, sites, structures, monuments, and other objects”. After the SHRC passed this legislation the City Council then took up this issue, by the Council on 7/10/23 in passing into law Ordinance C3640--“Process for Addressing City-Owned Property Ordinance”. On 7/24/23 the Mayor vetoed Ordinance C3640 and in 2024 once all City Council seats are filled, at that point the Council plans on re-addressing this issue. Another piece of SHRC “*work-product*” that happened after the Commission had held a Special-Public-Meeting, which that meeting was concerning issues surrounding the current problems of hiring the 1st Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI) Director. At that point on 4/6/23 the SHRC had a 2nd Read & vote of SHRC-Resolution 2023-002--“regarding the process of hiring the director of the OCREI and the Commission’s commitment to the public format of the community forum”. On 6/8/23 the Mayor appointed Jerrall Haynes, who had spent more than a year developing the framework for the OCREI and then he was hired as its 1st full-time Director. And then on 8/3/23 OCREI Director Haynes gave a Presentation to the SHRC, for the Commission to learn what the future holds for OCREI from the new Director. More of that SHRC “*work-product*” came on 10/5/23 when the SHRC had a 2nd Read & vote of SHRC-Resolution 2023-003--“concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness. ...And hereby requests that the City Council of the City of Spokane create a framework of protections to address shelter inadequacies and operations in city limits and add protections in the Municipal Code for our society’s most vulnerable population”. In 2024 once all City Council seats are filled, at that point the SHRC plans on re-addressing this issue with the Commissions’ new City Council Liaison. Lastly the other notable SHRC “*work-product*” was

the 2 different letters to the [City Council](#) written by the [SHRC Executive Committee](#), in which the letters were about "*Public-Safety & Housing*" matters that were currently before the Council. [The SHRC Chair gave testimony to the City Council at a meeting during Public-Forum about 1 of the letters on Public-Safety](#), and later the [SHRC Vice-Chair](#) gave testimony to the City Council at a meeting during Public-Forum about the other letter on *Housing*. Those "*letters*" were incredibly well crafted & researched, and due to that fact multiple [City Council Members](#) have commented about the letters having a positive effect on them while they were creating those laws.

Also, for 2023, the SHRC took a *deeper-dive* into better connecting with our community through outreach/communication efforts in order to enhance dialogue on the topics of *Human Rights*. Throughout the year the SHRC conducted a series of [outreach-events](#), in which the community gained knowledge about the Commission and issues of *Human Rights*. The SHRC participated in [4-Tabling-Events held at Community-Events in Riverfront Park](#), and at those events Commissioners engaged with the public about *Human/Civil Rights* matters and handed out materials that enhance dialogue on the topics of *Human Rights*. Those materials, like [SHRC Brochures](#), have now been updated recently to better reflect the mission of the SHRC with a *QR Code* on it in order to better connect with the public. Plus, the SHRC reconstituted the event "[Coffee with a Commissioner](#)", which was done in partnership with the [Spokane Public Library](#) with the event being held at local libraries the 4th Tuesday of every month between 12 to 1pm. The SHRC had 6 "[Coffee with a Commissioner](#)" events, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the [Spokane Public Library](#) in the new year. Along with all of that, it was on 11/2/23 that the SHRC attended the [2023 Human Rights Champions Awards Banquet & Celebration](#) held at the [Spokane Convention Center](#). This event is hosted by the [Spokane County Human Rights Task Force \(now known as "Human Rights Spokane"\)](#) in partnership with the SHRC, which this year the Commission paid for 2 tables at the event. Several Commissioners & other City-Staff were able to attend the event at the Commission's tables as well as; the

Commission welcomed & invited 3 Community-Members with their +1's to be our guests at our tables, due to all the great work they have done in our community on "*protecting & championing*" the *Human Rights* of all in our community. As for the SHRC communication-efforts this year the Commission has greatly expanded the Commission's local-news-media & social-media presence, which again has enhanced dialogue on the topics of *Human Rights* in our community. The Commission was mentioned 19 times in local-media news stories, which those stories were on topics surrounding the SHRC 2023 Workplan. During 2023 the SHRC Facebook page posted 108 times on topics that enhanced dialogue on the topics of *Human & Civil Rights*, and in the new year we are looking into better ways to engage with social-media.

Finally, the Commission would like to take this opportunity to express deep thanks to 2 individuals who dramatically helped the SHRC in 2023, Nicolette Ocheltree & City Council Member Karen Stratton. Nicolette Ocheltree, who is the City Council Manager of Housing & Homelessness Initiatives, assisted on the Commission at our meetings during their *off-time* with Technical-Support & other City-Assistance while they *volunteered their time*. And City Council Member Karen Stratton, who served as the SHRC City Council Liaison, assisted on the Commission as a non-voting member who during our meetings gave great wisdom & wonderful jokes while providing the Commission with City-Assistance in their role. Again, the Commission wishes to thank these 2 individuals for helping to enhance the dialogue on the topics of *Human & Civil Rights* in our community.

Upcoming in 2024 the SHRC Executive Committee will be *welcoming to the Executive-Team* the addition of the Commission's Youth Position, Commissioner Koh, serving in the Executive-Officer-Position of Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Koh is serving their *2nd term* on the Commission, and also serves as a Chase Youth Commissioner. Both the SHRC Chair & Vice-Chair will also be serving a *2nd term* in those positions on the Executive Committee. The other notable thing that the SHRC will be tasked with in 2024, will be working with the City Administration on filling the 2 vacancies now on the Commission.

1 of those vacancies is for District 1, and the other is an At-Large position.

In conclusion, as Chair of the Commission, I look forward to the SHRC in 2024 working towards the upcoming goals of the SHRC 2024 Workplan, while the Commission *engages in ways to enhance dialogue on the topics of Human & Civil Rights in our communities*. As always as Chair, I look forward to any input fellow Commissioners have on these matters. And I also want to thank my fellow Commissioners that have answered the call of leadership to serve in our community on *advocating & championing for Human Rights*. So, I thank you all for your support & your commitment to the cause.

Below is a summary of activities I participated in as Chair of the SHRC for the month of December 2023, as well as additional points of interest:

❖ Commission Updates

- On the afternoon of 12/5/23 the SHRC Chair attended a private-event that was hosted by the City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives, in which this was the 2nd meeting with Community-Stakeholders & City Council Members on those parties going forward in together crafting a draft City Council Resolution "Against Antisemitism & Islamophobia" –after the **"failed"** *City Council's Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0 on 10/7/23 that only supported the Israeli-Position on the conflict* and **NO** Community-Stakeholder-Engagement happened **NOR** having any public-comment on the matter before the resolution was passed. The 1st meeting happened on 10/30/23 in which 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.

- On the evening of 12/5/23 the SHRC Chair attended an event at the invitation of the EWU Provost & the EWU Faculty Organization President on the meeting about the **EWU Strategic Planning 2nd Focus Group/Forum with Diverse Community Leaders**. In which at this Strategic Planning meeting we assisted on "*re-crafting*" the EWU Mission & Vision Statements, and that new final draft will be posted before spring 2024.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to "[Odyssey Youth Movement](#)" Executive Director Ian Sullivan, in order to have the "Odyssey Youth Movement" give a presentation to the Commission at the January meeting. The presentation would be about that organizations' work in our community regarding *promoting equity for LGBTQ+ youth in the Inland Northwest through youth-driven programs and community education, with the vision of Thriving LGBTQ+ youth in the Inland Northwest by using human connectedness to foster a greater understanding of self, others, and the world around us*. Ian Sullivan agreed to this presentation.
- On 12/12/23 the SHRC Chair attended a private-event that was hosted by the City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives, in which this was the 3rd meeting with Community-Stakeholders & City Council Members on those parties going forward in together crafting a draft City Council Resolution "Against Antisemitism & Islamophobia".
- A City Council Member reached out to the SHRC Chair, about the Councils' work on revisiting the "Process for Addressing City-Owned Property Ordinance" that the Mayor vetoed on 7/24/23. This Ordinance C3640 was pass by City Council on 7/10/23, after the SHRC had worked on this issue for over a year & then went forward with passing a Resolution about the matter on 1/5/23 –in which the Resolution called on *proposing a standard protocol for processing, considering, &*

acting upon citizens' concerns about City-owned buildings, sites, structures, monuments, & other objects.

- Commissioner Archer on the morning of 12/14/23 emailed their Resignation to the SHRC Chair, which at that point the Chair forwarded Commissioner Archer's Resignation to the SHRC Executive Committee. With this Resignation & Commissioner Kissler Termining-Off the Commission on 12/31/23, the SHRC has 2 vacancies. 1 of those vacancies is for *District 1*, and the other is an *At-Large position*.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on the evening of 12/14/23, with the 2023 & 2024 Executive Committee members.
- The SHRC Vice-Chair reached out to City Administration Staff & other City Staff, in order to inform them in an email of the 2 vacancies now on the Commission and then to find out how to start the City-Process on filling those vacancies. The City Attorney did respond to that email, but the SHRC is still waiting to hear back from the City Administration Staff about this matter.
- On 12/19/23 the SHRC Chair attended a private-event that was hosted by the City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives, in which this was the 4th meeting with Community-Stakeholders & City Council Members on those parties going forward in together crafting a draft City Council Resolution "Against Antisemitism & Islamophobia". *Attached to this email is the final draft of the Resolution, which the resolution is to be introduced at the City Council's Urban Experience Committee on 1/8/24, and then have it come up for a vote at the 1/22/24 City Council meeting.*
- The SHRC Chair was informed about an "*incorrect-invoice*" from the Spokesman-Review newspaper, which at that point the Chair let the SHRC Executive Committee know about this matter. The Executive Committee would later learn that the invoice was mis-sent to the SHRC and should have gone to the Human Rights Spokane (*formerly the Spokane County*

Human Rights Task Force), which now this matter is resolved.

- 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 January 4, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post from ["City of Spokane - Municipal Government"](#), in which that post was about "Happy Hanukkah to all those celebrating the Festival of Lights!".

City Council RESOLUTION NO. 2023-

A resolution of solidarity with those whose lives have been forever altered by the conflict between Israel and Hamas. We envision a world where every life is cherished and valued as equal - where all humanity lives in peace, freedom, and safety.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has taken great steps to promote and foster inclusivity, diversity, anti-racism, and belonging and is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in SMC 01.03.030, the official motto of the City of Spokane is “In Spokane, We All Belong”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of all of its community members and to ensure that they will be protected and their rights respected; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane recognizes the significance international conflicts have on a local scale; and

WHEREAS, profound collective grief has followed Hamas’ attack and Israel’s military response, and the resulting humanitarian crises. We mourn the lives lost and continue to hold Israeli and Palestinian victims, and their families and loved ones, in our hearts and thoughts.

WHEREAS, if you are Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish or Muslim and/or have connections to the region and live in Spokane, we are glad you’re here. You make Spokane a better place to live, and we want you to feel that you belong here. People should be able to attend school, go to work, and live their lives without the threat of violence regardless of where they live, what they look like, or how they worship.

WHEREAS, our hearts are with Spokane community members who are hurting, including those who are worried for the safety of their loved ones, or mourning loved ones they have already lost.

WHEREAS, we yearn for the swift recovery of the injured, the safe release of those taken hostage, the safe return of those displaced, taken from their homes, or detained and or incarcerated unlawfully, and we welcome and support efforts to ensure that basic necessities of food, water, medicine, and other services are provided to the civilian population caught in the midst of war.

WHEREAS, we recognize that the local Israeli, Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim communities are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government or Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas.

WHEREAS, we emphasize the sanctity of all human life and stand firm against any violence towards the most vulnerable, especially children.

WHEREAS, this conflict is a stark reminder of the global struggles for equity, justice and peace that have unfolded over centuries and millennia. We stand in solidarity with those whose lives have

been forever altered by this tragedy. And we envision a world where every life is cherished and valued as equal - where all humanity lives in peace, freedom, and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council affirms that Spokane will continue to be an inclusive, respectful, and just city that is proud of its mosaic of people of diverse cultures, faiths, beliefs and identities, and to celebrate both our individuality and commonality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council affirms the basic rights of all people to live, love, learn, work, and worship in a safe environment free from discrimination, intimidation, threats or fear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council affirms that all human beings should have uninhibited access to water, food, healthcare, medical supplies, electricity, or basic needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council condemns all acts of violence aimed at Israeli and Palestinian civilians and mourns the loss of life and liberty of every civilian; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council calls upon our local, state, and federal elected officials to support efforts towards immediate and sustained peace in Israel and Palestine that recognizes the liberty and shared humanity of all Israelis and Palestinians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council calls for the unconditional release of all civilians who are being held hostage or unlawfully detained and or incarcerated, and demands their safety, well-being, and humane treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, our hearts are also with our community members who fear discrimination and violence being committed against them here. We condemn both antisemitism and Islamophobia, and the City of Spokane is dedicated to act against hate and oppression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council will continue to support policy that improves the City's process for reporting hate crimes, incidents, and threats, as well as supporting enhanced community-based structures for the people and communities affected, and supporting the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spokane City Council encourages people to report incidents of hate to Human Rights Spokane (formerly the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force) at spokanecountyhumanrightstaskforce.org; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council strongly encourages thorough policy and pursuing aggressive investigation of all credible reports of hate crimes and incidents and threats against minority groups or individuals, and holding perpetrators of those crimes, incidents, and threats accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Spokane City Council commits and calls on the City's Administration, businesses, educational institutions, and other institutions to pro-actively educate and act against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate and oppression as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council pledges to continue their education and understanding of cultural diversity in Spokane.