



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Feb 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-7:30 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):

5:40-5:50	Acknowledgment of Black History Month	Kurtis Robinson
5:50-6:15	Spokane NAACP	Vice President Kurtis Robinson
6:15-6:25	SHRC Committee Assignments	
6:25-7:30	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>Mar 7<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

February 1, 2024

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**

- On 1/3/24 the SHRC Chair attended the "Greater Spokane Progress (GSP)" meeting for their OCREI Workgroup, in which the discussion was on the effects that the new "2024 City-Budget" will have on the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI). During the meeting the Chair let the Workgroup know that about 15 minutes before the meeting the OCREI Director had contacted the Chair to inform them that the "2024 City-Budget" for the SHRC is now **\$3,500**, which is a \$1,000 increase for the Commission from the recent previous years in the "City-Budget". Also during the meeting there was a discussion about how the City plans on going forward with the City Council passing the Language Access Resolution on 10/16/23 (which will be overseen by the OCREI), and what GSP would like to see the City do on implementing the Language Access Resolution.
- On 1/5/24 the SHRC Chair was contacted by 2 different reporters from KLXY-TV about doing an interview and story about the 37 Homeless-Neighbors that were kicked out of the Trent (TRAC) Homeless Shelter on 1/2/24 & on what the City plans on doing to deal with the upcoming cold snap, due to the fact that the Chair had previously worked at that Shelter. Instead of the Chair doing these interviews the Chair then referred both reporters to "Subject-Matter-Experts" in the community that could better answer questions about

warming-shelters & the TRAC Shelter, which then those reporters spoke to those people.

- On 1/7/24 the SHRC Chair attended the 5 Year Angelversary Remembrance March for David Novak, who was wrongfully killed by Spokane Police in 2019. Every 7<sup>th</sup> day of the month David's family has held these Remembrance March Events in front of the courthouse at 12pm in order to get justice for David, as well as during these events the family has *helped & supported other families in Spokane that have been touched by "Police-Violence"*. A \$4 million settlement by the City of Spokane to the Novak family happened in the wrongful death lawsuit on 9/24/22.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Lisa Gardner the new President of the "Spokane NAACP", in order to have the "Spokane NAACP" give 2 presentations to the Commission at the February meeting. 1 of the presentations would be about *honoring & acknowledging Black History Month*. And the other presentation would be about that organizations' work in our community regarding *promoting protecting & expanding the rights of marginalized people for over 100 years. By prioritizing education, criminal justice needs, civil engagement, & much more, while being able to stay on top of issues that affect all of us the most*. Lisa Gardner agreed to these presentations.
- Transportation Choices Coalition (TCC) reached out to the SHRC Chair on 1/9/24, in order to bring the Chair to their Press-Conference in Olympia on the steps of the Capital on 1/23/24 at 3pm. This Press-Conference was about "Reforming Jaywalking Laws" with the new bill **SB 5383**, which during last year's legislative session TCC worked on a similar Bill and the Chair was part of that process. Last year the Chair wrote an Op-Ed in the Spokesman-Review newspaper titled, "Walking while Black: Why it's time to repeal Washington's jaywalking laws". The Chair declined TCC's offer to attend the Press-Conference in Olympia, due to the logistics of crossing the mountain-passes but the Chair

let them know that they might testify for the Bill at a later date.

- The SHRC Executive Committee has emailed multiple times to the Mayor's Office without success, in order for us to coordinate on filling the 2 vacancies the Commission has. On 1/10/24 the SHRC Chair then called the Mayor's Office & left a message, which the next day the Mayor's Office then finally responded to those Executive Committee emails.
- On 1/11/24 a Policy-Analyst with the King County's Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to let the Chair know that the interview the Chair did on 9/12/23 for a report on the King County Sheriff's Office communicating with "Impacted-Families of Police-Violence". The reports' title is "King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight Trauma-Informed Notifications Community Orgs, Victim's Advocates, Subject Matter Expert", which the process of the report started in 2019 after Initiative-940 was passed. This report will be published shortly, with the finishing touches getting done the next few weeks.
- City Council Member Paul Dillon reached out to the SHRC Chair again, in order to update the 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.*
- On 1/15/24 the SHRC Chair attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally & March at the Spokane Convention Center, and then attended the workshop/seminar organized by Eastern Washington University that featured several of Spokane's prominent leaders & activists. Workshop/seminar

panelists included: [Spokane City Council President Betsy Wilkerson](#); [Chief Family & Community Engagement Officer, Dr. Oscar Harris of Spokane Public Schools](#); [Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Robin Kelley of Gonzaga University](#); and [Director of Communications & Community Engagement for Spokane City Council, Lisa Gardner](#).

- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 1/18/24.
- [City Council Member Jonathan Bingle](#) reached out to the SHRC Chair on 1/22/24, in order to have a conversation with the Chair about *current issues at City Hall* and also on *Human & Civil Rights* issues.
- On 1/25/24 the SHRC Chair attended the "[12th Annual Spokane Homeless Connect](#)", held at the Convention Center. This event is the largest & longest-running homeless services event in Eastern WA, [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 clothing for adults & children](#).
- The SHRC Chair responded to a Citizen-Inquiry about how they could file a *Civil-Rights-Complaint* about housing issues in a low-income building, in which the Chair referred that person to go forward with contacting [OCREI Director Jerrall Haynes](#) about the matter and also to contact the "[Carl Maxey Center Racial Justice Legal Clinics](#)", happening every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month for [Black, Indigenous, People of Color on Civil Rights & Discrimination in Housing, Employment, Services, Governmental-Agencies, Court-Services, Law-Enforcement, Language-Access, Civil-Law including Family-Law, Domestic Violence, Consumer, Credit, Evictions, Post-Conviction-Relief](#), and all other areas **excluding Criminal-Law**. These Legal Clinics are a part of "[The Sandy Williams Justice Center](#)", which honors the fact that *back in the day*, on Wednesday afternoons, [Carl Maxey](#) opened the doors to his law office to the Black Community for Free-Legal-Advice to all who dropped in and following Carl's death in 1997 that "**DropIn-Wednesdays**" event continued at "[The Law Office of D.C. Cronin](#)".



- On 1/26/24 a reporter from KHQ-TV reached out to the SHRC Chair to do an interview and story [about City Council Ordinance ORD C36484](#), relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members' concerns regarding City-owned property. This same Ordinance was passed by City Council in adopting Ordinance C36402 the on 7/10/23, establishing a *new chapter 18.10 of the Spokane Municipal Code* **relating to institutional statements, names or monuments on City-owned properties**. [It was then 14 days later that Ordinance C36402 was vetoed by Mayor Woodward, ostensibly on the grounds the Ordinance circumvented the City's historic preservation mandates as reflected in the statutory mission of the City's Landmarks Commission, set forth in Chapter 04.35 of the Spokane Municipal Code.](#) Before *Mayor Woodward's veto* the Mayor's Office failed to *consult with* the City's Landmarks Commission **nor** the City's Human Rights Commission, which if the Mayor's Office had talked to those 2 Commissions' they would have heard that during the SHRC process we had heard from the Landmarks Commission and in their presentations to us that in fact that they felt this wasn't in their mandated authority. That was also true of the presentations from the City's Art's Commission the SHRC had, which they said that the Monaghan Statue had **NEVER** been a "*commissioned artwork*" of the City and that the Art's Commission would never do so, mainly due to the fact that multiple times that the Art's Commission has supported the removal of the Monaghan Statue. [Subsequent discussions with City staff following Mayor Woodward's veto of Ordinance C36484 have determined the Landmarks Commission is not suited to review issues related to institutional statements, names or monuments on City-owned properties in the manner outlined under C36484. And that the Landmarks Commission does not view the mandates under C36484 as part of its mission, and so C36484 should go forward with](#)

[the SHRC being the intake mechanism for addressing City-owned properties.](#)

- The SHRC Chair gave public testimony at the 1/29/24 City Council Meeting during the agenda item regarding Ordinance C36484, [establishing a new chapter 18.10 of the Spokane Municipal Code relating to institutional statements, names or monuments on City-owned properties.](#)
- 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 February 1, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post from the "[Spokane City Council](#)", which the post was in order to honor the upcoming [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr holiday](#). That post was about [Mayor Lisa Brown presenting a proclamation to Freda Gandy of Spokane MLK Outreach Center & Amos Atkinson of the Spokane Ministers Fellowship.](#)
- Re-posted a post from "[Spokane NAACP](#)", which the post was in order to honor [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday](#) that celebrates [Dr. King's birthday & legacy](#). [MLK Day](#) is the official day of *service & celebration* of his **civil rights work & life**, who was born on 1/15/1929. [This post from the "Spokane NAACP" had events listed throughout the weekend for the public to celebrate the life of Dr. King in Spokane.](#)
- Re-posted a post from "[Spokane Homeless Connect](#)", which that post was about their event on 1/25/24 of the [12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spokane Homeless Connect](#) held at the Convention Center.
- Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review newspaper, which the story was honoring the [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)



*federal holiday* titled “You can kill the dreamer, but you cannot kill the dream’: Spokane community comes together to honor MLK and his legacy”.

- Re-posted a post from “Transportation Choices Coalition (TCC)”, which the post was an ACTION ALERT on signing in “PRO” on the state legislators Senate bill SB 5383 that day to help reform WA's jaywalking laws.
- Posted a news story from KOMO-TV in Seattle, about “Proposed bill would change Washington's jaywalking laws”.
- Re-posted a post from “The Way To Justice”, in which the post was about **Justice Night** returning 1/29/24 from 5pm-7pm located at 1512 N Monroe St. This event for the public can see an attorney for free & receive legal advice & other resources of support.
- Re-posted a post from Council President Betsy Wilkerson, which was about their time spent at the “Spokane Homeless Connect” event at the Convention Center on 1/25/24 and their pictures of the event.
- Posted a news story from KREM-TV, which was on the story of the event at the “Spokane Homeless Connect” and the effect the event has on supporting our Homeless-Neighbors.
- Posted a news story from KHQ-TV, which was about the upcoming vote on City Council Ordinance ORD C36484, *relating to the establishment of a process to consider & act upon community members’ concerns regarding City-owned property*.

# SHRC Meeting

04 January 2024 / 5:35 PM-7:11PM / CITY COUNCIL

## Attendees

**COMMISSIONERS:** Anwar Peace, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Brennan Schreibman, Alex Knox, Livia Koh, Olivia Arballo-Saenz, Hayley Harrison

**OTHERS:** OCREI Director Jerrall Haynes, NAACP President Lisa Gardener

## Public Comment

**Ivan Urnovitz:** Comment about Monaghan statue, collaborations suggested

## Agenda

### Odyssey Youth Movement

- Ian Sullivan (he/him) Executive Director + Chandler (they/them) Communications
- 30+ years in the community supporting LGBTQ+ Youth, serving greater Spokane area (and further)
- In 2023, vandalism incident occurred
- Working to include Youth Voices (youth representation)
- Use mentors + volunteers to support youth community (applications open)
- Drop-in programs for youth + young adults to connect w/ peers and community, supplying resources for youth in need (meals, clothing, etc.)
- Host events (Youth Queer Prom, Masquerade, etc.) for LGBTQ+ community

### Questions

- Commissioner Knox asks about strengthening policy for LGBTQ+ community
  - Trans/non-binary focus, housing access, keeping lens opened to BIPOC members of community
- Commissioner Schreibman asks about GSA
  - GSAs are student + youth-led, basically a club at a school
- Lisa Gardener asks about collaboration between NAACP + Odyssey/ LGBTQ+ youth
- Commissioner Knox asks about hate crime reporting (like [Human Rights Spokane](#))
  - took steps of the report, could work to streamline form, safety concerns
- Commissioner Koh asks about youth creating better communities
  - empower youth to lead, connect in with other groups (BSUs, etc.)
  - don't be afraid to advocate for your needs
- Commissioner Hernandez-Peck asks about LGBTQ+ education

- colleges, presentations + clubs in schools still active

### **2024 Work Plan**

- Commissioner Hernandez-Peck discusses supporting a diversity of age ranges
  - youth, elderly (long-term care)
- Commissioner Knox discusses shelter inadequacies, strengthening hate crime reporting, homelessness
- Commissioner Schreibman discusses homelessness
- Commissioner Peace discusses public safety + police reform
- Commissioner Knox brings up 2 resolutions to consider in New Year
- Commissioner Schreibman brings up collaboration with OCREI under State Human Rights Commission Grant

### **Committee Lead Elections**

- Commissioner Schreibman motions to appoint committee leads subject to committee membership, Commissioner Harrison seconds
  - Commissioner Arballo-Saenz to Chair of Outreach Committee
  - Commissioner Knox to Chair of Civic Impact Committee
- Motion Carries

### **Committee Updates**

- Civic Impact could work in stronger cohesion with the full SHRC in 2024, 2 resolutions
- Update on budget: \$3,500 for 2024

# SHRC 2024 WORK PLAN

## AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Diversifying age range of support
  - youth + elderly (long-term care)
- Homelessness
  - shelter inadequacies, specifically for trans/non-binary youth
  - housing
- Public Safety + Police Reform
  - creating more connections with the police department + public safety
  - strengthening Hate Crime Reporting
- Supporting Language Access Ordinance
  - helping to identify helpers for translation
- Collaboration with OCREI under State Human Rights Commission Grant



## **RESOLUTION 2024-01**

*A resolution concerning adding a nondiscrimination ordinance in public accommodation practices under Title 18 of the Spokane Municipal Code.*

**WHEREAS**, under Title 18, Chapter 1, Section 2, Subsection B, the City of Spokane has outlined its intent that all people have an equal opportunity to participate fully in the life of the City and that discriminatory barriers to equal participation in employment, housing, and public accommodations be removed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane has delineated chapters in municipal code that specify nondiscrimination in employment and housing practices that promote fairness and inclusivity, but not in public accommodation practices within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, nondiscrimination in public accommodation practices is necessary to ensure that all residents of the City of Spokane have equal access to goods, services, and facilities intended for public access, regardless of race, religion, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, refugee status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq, and/or the Washington State Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission hereby requests the City Council of the City of Spokane add a nondiscrimination ordinance in public accommodations to Spokane Municipal Code under Title 18, Human Rights.



## **RESOLUTION 2024-02**

*A resolution concerning adding language to nondiscrimination ordinances against discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.*

**WHEREAS**, under Title 18, Chapter 1, Section 2, Subsection A, the City of Spokane has outlined its intent that the City values the dignity and worth of all human beings and is committed to promoting justice, equity, and an inclusive environment for all by respecting cultural and individual diversity and fostering mutual understanding among all people; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring that individuals are protected from discrimination based on how others perceive them fosters a more inclusive and equitable society, of which is the City's stated goal; and

**WHEREAS**, ordinances on nondiscrimination may vary in interpretation, therefore it is crucial for comprehensive protections that explicitly include both actual and perceived sexual orientation and gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, adding "actual or perceived" to nondiscrimination language is important as it recognizes that discrimination can occur based on how someone is perceived, even if that perception is inaccurate and will protect individuals from discrimination based on stereotypes or assumptions about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission hereby requests that the City Council of the City of Spokane add nondiscrimination language specifying that discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, and actual or perceived gender identity be added to nondiscrimination ordinances under Spokane Municipal Code.