



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Jul 3<sup>rd</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):

5:40-6:00	City of Spokane Planning Services	Maren Murphy, Senior Planner
6:00-6:25	Experience Matters	Ami Manning/Angel Tomeo-Sam
6:25-6:50	Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion	Jerrall Haynes
6:50-7:05	Discussion & Potential First Read Resolution	
7:05-7:30	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive</li> <li>• Civic Impact</li> <li>• Outreach</li> </ul>	

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>Aug 1<sup>st</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

July 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 6/4/24 the SHRC Chair was invited & attended a Private-Event with other Community-Leaders. The event was the "Human Rights Roundtable" with Andreta Armstrong, Executive Director of the Washington State Human Rights Commission. This was a very engaging round table discussion on civil & human rights issues led by Executive Director Andreta Armstrong, which this event aimed to foster networking & collaboration among leaders & influencers dedicated to combating racism & discrimination.
- The SHRC Chair had a private meeting with a "Homeless-Service-Provider" & several "National ACLU Attorneys" on 6/6/24 & 6/19/24, which that meeting was on the topics surrounding our *Homeless-Neighbors and their issues they are having with the Police*. At the beginning of May 2024, we had our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with the ACLU, in order for them to go forward with legal-readdress for our how had been charged with the City's "Sit & Lie Law".
- The SHRC Chair with many other local & Statewide Community-Organizations helped with creating a "Press-Conference" for "Impacted-Families" touched by Police-Violence. This "Press-Conference" was held in front of the Courthouse on 6/7/24, in which there was 18 "Impacted-Families" who **expressed their outrage** that the *Spokane Police Department is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadliest Police Force in the*

*Nation* and what they want the new Police Chief whose about to be hired to do with this dysfunctional Police Department. The following is a link to the livestream of the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/SCARSpokane/videos/781950474058414/>.

- On 6/8/24 the SHRC had a booth at the [32<sup>nd</sup> annual Spokane Pride Parade & Festival](#); participating at the booth was Commissioner Knox, Commissioner Robinson, Vice-Chair Commissioner Schreibman, and Chair Peace.
- A [Seattle Radio Talk-show host](#) reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to have the Chair on their 6/10/24 "[Mothers Justice Show hosted by Rev. Harriett Walden](#)" from 2-3pm on [1150AM KKNW](#). Last year [Rev. Walden](#) was *recognized in Seattle* as "[The Most Influential Person For Police Accountability In The Pacific Northwest](#)". The SHRC Chair agreed to do the show, and this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Chair has been on the show as Chair, the [1<sup>st</sup> time was on 3/20/23](#). The following is a link to the show on 6/10/24: <https://1150kknw.com/episode/anwar-peace-commissioner-city-of-spokane-human-rights-commission/>.
- On 6/19/24 the SHRC Chair attended the "[Juneteenth Community Celebration](#)" held at [Grant Park](#), in which the event highlighted small, Black-owned businesses, offering a fantastic opportunity to support & connect with local entrepreneurs. The event was hosted by [Inland Northwest Juneteenth](#) and featured a variety of child-friendly activities, and a diverse range of vendors were present providing valuable resources & information from community.
- On 6/21/24 the SHRC Chair attended the "[Expo '74 Legislative Summit 2024](#)" held at the [Convention Center](#), in which the event was hosted by "[The Lands Council](#)" and picks up where [Expo 1974's Environmental Symposium](#) left off. In 1974 a lot of *important environmental case studies & solutions* were discussed, but the criticism at the time was that **not enough policymakers** attended Expo '74; therefore, *no policies to combat Global Warming or Climate*

*Change were put into place. At the 2024 Legislative Summit, legislators & local area experts crafted *legislation on 6 locally important topics with a Climate Justice thread running through them*; these proposed bills will be sponsored in the 2025 Washington State Legislative Session and **could possibly become law if passed**. On 6/21/24 the day of the Summit started with a Native Opening Ceremony and then during breakfast City of Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown spoke, after which at lunch Governor Jay Inslee spoke. This event is hosted in collaboration with the "Tribal Pillar" & featured a *symbolic salmon release & prayer* at noon, as well as a *traditional canoe race on the Spokane River* to mark the end of the Legislative Summit. The last event was a *traditional salmon & bison dinner with Indigenous side dishes* to round off the day.*

- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 6/23/24.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Alex Gibilisco the "City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives", in order to have them give a presentation to the Commission at the August meeting. The presentation would be about the "City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives" work in our community *regarding providing help with ensuring city laws & policies are equitable & inclusive*. Alex Gibilisco agreed to this presentation. 5/20/24
- On 6/24/24 the SHRC Chair again sent a *very-lengthy-email* to Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP) Leadership & CEO Julie Honekamp, in which the email expressed deep concerns about SNAP rekeying the apartments of a whole building *without giving a proper "48-hour Notice to Enter"* those units and this then resulted in several residents reaching out to the SHRC Chair to let them know that SNAP had locked them out of their apartments for a night. It was back on 5/20/24 that the Chair 1<sup>st</sup> reached out to SNAP after resident had reached out about SNAP removing AC units from their SNAP owned properties where *low-income, disabled & senior people* live at. In that email I relayed the

fact of the [upcoming City Council's "Heat Health & Safety Ordinance ORD-C36523 "](#) *which would guarantee a tenant's right to install and use a "portable cooling device" of their choice, provided that its use does not violate building code or damage the premises and follows state and federal law.* And

in this new email to [SNAP](#) the Chair requested a meeting, which is now in the process of being scheduled soon.

- At noon on 6/27/24 the SHRC Chair attended an event to discuss the creation of the ["Center for Migration Studies & Outreach"](#) at [EWU](#), in which the Chair and other Community Leaders had been invited to the event that was held at the Hive. The facilitators of the event were [Associate Professor of Sociology & Justice Studies Kassahun Kebede, Ph.D.](#), who is from Ethiopia and [Professor of Sociology & Justice Studies Pui-Yan Lam, Ph.D.](#), who is from Hong Kong. Which the Professors vision for the ["Center for Migration Studies & Outreach"](#) will be to *actively engage our immigrant & refugee communities* and work collaboratively with them to help make our communities more visible, identify the needs of the communities and address the issues our communities face in the Spokane region. With hopes that the Centers research will be useful for our community partners for their works and for the development of policies beneficial to our immigrant communities, while also the Center will *provide meaningful employment & research opportunities* for [EWU undergraduate & graduate students](#), especially those from immigrant and refugee families.
- The evening of 6/27/24 the SHRC Chair attended the [Spokane Police Chief Finalists Fourm](#), which was held at the Downtown Library. *4 finalists* have been selected for consideration as the next [Chief of the Spokane Police Department](#), which these finalists were chosen following a national search led by an external firm that specializes in police chief recruitment and the search was conducted in conjunction with robust community engagement gathered through several public meetings, as well as surveys

completed by the public & department personnel. The following candidates were chosen by Mayor Lisa Brown based on feedback from a selection committee made up of city officials & community leaders: \*\*\*Kevin Hall – Assistant Chief of Police, Tucson Police Department; \*\*\*Matthew Murray – Chief of Police, Yakima Police Department; \*\*\*Tom Worthy – Chief of Police, The Dalles Police Department; and \*\*\*Kathleen Lanier – Colonel, Memphis Police Department. The following is a link to watch the Spokane Police Chief Finalists Fourm:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZpCCIbsG3s>.

- Regularly communicated with the Mayor's Office last month *about the process of filling 1 vacancies on the Commission* and the SHRC Executive Committee wishes to thank this new Mayor's Office for their efforts to better collaborate with Commissions & Boards on filling the vacancies that have happened during the last administration.
- SHRC City Council Liaison Councilmember Lili Navarrete & their staff reached out to the SHRC Chair several times during the month, in order to update the Chair about how the City Council plans on addressing SHRC RESOLUTION 2023-03--A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- 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 July 3, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post from "Stronger Together Spokane", in which the post was a meme with a rainbow flag that said, "You are Loved, Accepted, & Celebrated just as you are".



- Plus, the SHRC added a comment above that which said, "Happy Pride Month, in Spokane, "we all belong"!!!".
- Re-posted a post from "Visit Spokane", in which the post was about celebrating the upcoming Pride events in Spokane. Plus, the SHRC added a comment above that which said, "Happy Pride Month, in Spokane, "we all belong"!!!".
  - Posted about the upcoming community-event & Press Conference on Centering Families Impacted by Police Violence on 6/7/24, which was held in front of the courthouse. "Debbie Novak marches in front of the courthouse on the 7<sup>th</sup> of every month, a solemn ritual since Spokane Police killed her son, David Novak in 2019. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, families impacted by police violence will join her from across the state to speak out against this issue. Notably, Spokane Police is currently ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadliest police force per capita among the 100 largest cities in the United States, according to data from "Mapping Police Violence". This upcoming event will mark the 65<sup>th</sup> time Debbie has marched for her son."
  - Re-posted a post from "Spokane Pride", in which the post was about the repainting of the Rainbow-Crosswalk downtown and thanking the community for the donation dollars on the repainting with zero municipal funds used.
  - Posted several times about the upcoming "Spokane Police Chief Finalists Fourm", which was held at the Downtown Library on 6/27/24.
  - Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review Newspaper, which the story was about "Mayor Lisa Brown declares emergency for Spokane overdose hotspot at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Division".
  - Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review Newspaper, which the story was about "Pride history project opens at the Pavilion".
  - Posted a news story from KHQ-TV, which the story was about "Downtown Spokane Pride Mural vandalism leads to multiple arrests".
  - Posted SHRC--PROCLAMATION 24-001, recognizing June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Spokane and celebrating diversity & inclusion for all.
  - Posted a news story from Spokane Journal of Business Newspaper, which the story was about "NAACP chapter president continues grandmother's leadership legacy".



- Re-posted a post several times from "City of Spokane - Municipal Government", in which the post was about "Join us in celebrating Juneteenth in Spokane! Check out our website for a list of upcoming Juneteenth events".
- Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review Newspaper, which the story was about "Spokane landlords can no longer ban tenants from installing AC units".
- Posted a news story from KHQ-TV, which the story was about "Legislative summit to discuss environmental issues, honor Expo '74's legacy".
- Posted several times about the SHRC is currently accepting applications for a vacancy as a Commissioner in the "City At-Large" position, and that the SHRC is currently accepting applications for an upcoming vacancy as a Youth Commissioner (14 to 18).
- Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review Newspaper, which the story was about "Juneteenth 2024: How and where to 'bring celebration to Spokane'".
- Posted about the history & importance of acknowledging & elevating "Juneteenth" in our community.
- Posted about the "Human Rights Champions Award nominations will be accepted until 5pm 6/17/24!".
- Re-posted a post from "The Black Lens Newspaper", in which the post was about "Did you know? Lorraine Hansberry was not only the 1st Black woman to have a play produced on Broadway but also a pioneering figure in LGBTQ history. Her fearless voice in "A Raisin in the Sun" and her life as a Black lesbian in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century America left an indelible mark on both theater & civil rights movements".
- Re-posted a post from "The Black Lens Newspaper", in which the post was about "Juneteenth Spokane Indians King Carl Baseball Night on June 19 at 4 PM at Avista Stadium for a double-header filled with action & tribute".
- Re-posted a post from "City of Spokane - Municipal Government", in which the post was about "Happy Juneteenth! Today marks the 159<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day

that General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, announcing that all 250,000+ previously enslaved black Americans in Texas were now free".

- Re-posted a post from "Council President Betsy Wilkerson", in which the post was about "Shoutout to the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition for a wonderful celebration at Grant Park!".
- Re-posted a post from the "Carl Maxey Center", in which the post was about the "Carl Maxey Center Juneteenth Celebration on 6/22/24".
- Re-posted a post from "Riverfront Spokane", in which the post was about "kick off our Movies at the Pavilion series in fashion on Saturday, July 6 with the movie 'Barbie' featuring Beyond Pink".
- Re-posted a post from the "Spokane NAACP", in which the post was about an upcoming community event on 6/28/24 being held at the NW Museum of Arts & Culture on "Our stories: Black Families in Spokane".
- Re-posted a post from the "Washington State Attorney General", in which the post was about "Spokane, Clark, & King counties will host a pilot version of our office's first-of-its-kind statewide hate crimes hotline. The pilot hotline will be operational within a year. The statewide hotline will launch by January 2027".
- Re-posted a post from "City of Spokane - Municipal Government", in which the post was about "Watch the Spokane Police Chief Finalist Forum from last night (6/27/24) & provide your feedback to the City of Spokane Mayor's Office via survey".



**DRAFT [1st Read] RESOLUTION 24-001**

*A resolution proposing amendments to SMC 04.10.020 to assist the Spokane Human Rights Commission in the recruitment of applicants for and retention of members in the Youth Representative position.*

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission (the “Commission”) is dedicated to addressing issues related to human rights, unjust discrimination, and program implementation that accounts for the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane (“the City”), and one of its nine members is designated as Youth Representative to further this mission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s members who have served in the Youth Representative position have provided invaluable insight on human rights matters and have brought fresh perspectives to the Commission’s deliberations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s members who have served in the Youth Representative position have discharged their duties diligently and conscientiously, strengthening the quality of the Commission’s work; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has encountered difficulties recruiting applicants for and retaining members in the Youth Representative position in part due to certain requirements in SMC 04.10.020; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s current Youth Representative is, upon information and belief, believed to be the first Youth Representative member who has ever been reappointed to a second term as Youth Representative, in part due to the requirements in SMC 04.10.020; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s incumbent Youth Representative currently serves on the Commission’s Executive Committee as Secretary/Treasurer, exemplifies the characteristics set forth in the recitals herein, and the Commission has recommended her reappointment; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that amending SMC 04.10.020 will alleviate certain difficulties the Commission has encountered in recruiting for and retaining members in the Youth Representative position, and also increase continuity and stability in its membership;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby recommends amending SMC 04.10.020 in a manner consistent with the proposals set forth in **Exhibit A** hereto.

*Adopted by the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.*

Anwar Peace, Chair

**Ex. A:**

[PROPOSED] ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Title 04 — **Administrative Agencies and Procedures**

Chapter 04.10 — **Human Rights Commission**

Section 04.10.020 — **Appointment**

A. The commission consists of nine members nominated by the mayor and appointed by the city council to staggered three-year terms commencing on the date of appointment. Membership shall be composed of one (two?) member(s) ~~from-residing in~~ each of the council districts. The remaining six positions shall be designated as at-large positions and shall be filled by qualified City residents regardless of the council district in which they reside.

A.B. In addition to the nine positions set forth in Subsection (A), Two of the six at-large three additional positions may be filled with a Youth Representative, with no more than one Youth Representative residing in each of the council districts. The Youth Representative positions shall be open to any person under the age of eighteen ~~with-for~~ a term of one year commencing on the date of appointment, with the option of ~~one-year renewal~~reappointment to additional one-year terms if the person has not reached the age of ~~seventeen-eighteen~~ or is enrolled in high school at the time the ~~first-year~~previous term expires.

B.C. Vacancies for all positions are filled by appointment to unexpired terms, after which the member may be reappointed to a subsequent term in the same manner.

# SHRC Meeting

06 JUNE 2024 / 5:39 PM- 7:31PM / CITY COUNCIL

## Attendees

**COMMISSIONERS:** Anwar Peace, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Livia Koh, Alex Knox, Kurtis Robinson, Brennan Schreibman

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Councilmember Navaratte + Staff, OCREI Civil Coordinator

Land Acknowledgement

## Public Comment

N/A

Consent Agenda (Chair's Report included)

## Statements

Commissioner Knox gives Pride Month Proclamation for the continuation of equality for the LGBTQ+ community and recognizing the LGBTQ+ Community

- Pride Proclamation approval motioned and passed

Chair Peace recognizes the federal holiday of Juneteenth

## Agenda

### The Black Lens

Natasha Hill speaks on the Black Lens, a newspaper focused on the news, events, people, issues and information of importance to our region's Black community.

- originally founded by Sandy Williams to focus on Black voices in Spokane
- working to focus on the local community in the media
- discusses new board of the Black Lens :  
<https://www.blacklensnews.com/stories/2024/apr/29/meet-the-board-the-faces-behind-the-black-lens/>
- discusses necessity of emphasizing underrepresented voices

- working with Comma Journalism, the Spokesman, to share resources
- working on print delivery for subscriptions, increasing distribution in the future
- [editor@blacklens.com](mailto:editor@blacklens.com) can be emailed if one is interested in contributing

Emphasizes the need for diverse voices and discusses how the Black Lens is promoting diverse voices

## Juneteenth

President of the NAACP Lisa Gardener presents on Juneteenth, the day slavery was officially ended in the United States

- June 19th, 1865
- Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of all people in America
  - Frederick Douglass quote "...This Fourth Jul is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn."
- 13th + 14th Amendment discussed: slavery outlawed (save for criminal punishment) + equal protections under due process
- What is Freedom to the Black Man?
  - in the wake of the Civil War, various acts of discrimination towards Black people (segregation, lynching, etc.) continued on
- video on Juneteenth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8BSYy-ePv0>
- took until 2021 to make Juneteenth a federal holiday
- discusses the need for Black exceptionalism
- Gardener wrote article in Black Lens about the meaning of the Juneteenth flag: <https://www.blacklensnews.com/stories/2024/jun/02/juneteenth-reflection-the-new-red-white-and-blue/>

Washington State Human Rights Commission meeting discussed

- collaboration to work towards resolving community issues was emphasized

## Events

Juneteenth kickoff event at the MLK center June 13th

Pillar Awards June 14th Fox Theater 6pm

Saturday, June 15th Juneteenth celebration at MLK

- father's day brunch at SCC

Juneteenth Community Celebration at Grant Park starting at 11am

- Spokane Indians will do rendition of King Karl night to celebrate Karl Maxey

upcoming events from NAACP: Challenging the Narrative



## Committee Updates

- Whole Commission: Pride booth organization
  - Schreibman, Robinson, Knox, Peace tabling
- Executive Committee: budget issues resolved
- Outreach Committee: Pride organized
- Civic Impact Committee: meeting with director of OCREI to look at work plan goals + legislation + partnerships

Commissioner Hernandez-Peck mentions Frontier Behavioral Health's new CEO, Kelli Miller

Commissioners Robinson and Peace mention the upcoming Police Chief Forum on June 27th at the Central Library 5:30-7:00pm