



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Aug 1st, 2024 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	City Manager of Equity and Inclusion	Alex Gibilisco
6:05-6:50	SHRC Candidate Interviews	Commission
6:50-7:00	Second Reading/Potential Action on Resolution	
7:00-7:30	Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive • Civic Impact • Outreach 	

	Adjournment	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for Sep 5th, 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

August 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 7/15/24 the SHRC Chair had a private meeting with Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP) Director of Housing Services, John Hoover. This meeting happened after the SHRC Chair had email SNAP Leadership twice, in which those emails *expressed deep concerns* after learning from residents & staff of SNAP owned properties about how SNAP was currently operating their low-income apartment buildings. The SHRC Chair 1st reached out to SNAP on 5/20/24 after a resident had reached out to the Chair about SNAP removing AC units from their SNAP owned properties where *low-income, disabled & senior people* live at. In that email the SHRC Chair 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. In the Chair's 2nd email on 6/20/24, which was about SNAP "re-keying" 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. At the meeting on 7/15/24 with SNAP & the SHRC Chair, in which a meaningful conversation was had by all —

while also passing along to SNAP's Director of Housing Services "*handwritten witness-statements from residents*" of SNAP owned properties. Also, during this meeting SNAP's Director of Housing Services acknowledged that taking over the property management duties from the last property management company has been challenging for the organization, but they are committed to doing better going forward. Plus, during the meeting, the SHRC Chair & the SNAP Director of Housing Services shared an "**Action-Plan**" together on how to improve the "*safety & wellbeing*" of those living at SNAP owned properties while also enhancing the "*human rights & dignity of our low-income neighbors*".

- On 7/18/24 the SHRC Chair was invited & attended a Private-Meeting with City Council Member Paul Dillon at City Hall with other Community-Leaders, in which this meeting was about the *enhancement & better funding* of the City of Spokane Office of Police Ombuds.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 7/20/24.
- On 7/22/24 the SHRC Chair testified at the City Council Meeting, regarding the 1st reading of City Council ORD C36549—an ordinance relating to the human rights & basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness; amending sections 9.02.050, 18.01.010, 18.01.020, 18.01.030 of the Spokane Municipal Code; and enacting a new Section 18.05.040 of the Spokane Municipal Code. The 2nd reading & vote of this ordinance will be at the 8/15/24 City Council Meeting. This City Council Ordinance is based off of the SHRC RESOLUTION 2023-03--A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness, which was passed by the Commission on 10/5/23.
- City Council Member Zack Zappone (a Spokane Transit Authority (STA) Board Member) reached out to the SHRC Chair on 7/23/24, in which they relayed the fact that the STA Board had made a decision of including NO "official-input" from employees of the agency or the public for the hiring of a new CEO for the agency. At that point Council Member Zappone let the SHRC

Chair know that a Community-Organization named "Spokane Reimagined" was working on a "*Press-Release*" and they had asked if the Chair would be willing to write a quote for the "*Press-Release*" that would be published on 7/24/24, which the SHRC Chair agreed to do that and also sent a *very-lengthy-email* to the STA Board about the need for Public-Input on the hiring of a CEO. On 7/25/25 during the STA Board Meeting *after community & transit stakeholder feedback, the STA will now implement a CEO hiring process with public & employee input.*

- The SHRC Chair had a private meeting with a "Homeless Service-Provider" & several "National ACLU Attorneys" on 7/30/24, in which we were informed that legal-readdress over the City's "Sit & Lie Law" will be *happening very soon*. Since May 2024 the ACLU has made multiple trips to Spokane in order to engage with our Homeless-Neighbors & "Homeless Service-Providers", in order for those attorneys to go forward with legal-readdress for those that have been harmed by being charged with the City's "Sit & Lie Law".
- Regularly communicated with the Mayor's Office last month *about the process of filling 1 vacancy 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*.

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

❖ Social Media (Facebook)

- Created the August 1, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post multiple times from "ACLU of Washington", in which the post was a meme with a rainbow flag that said, *"Pride doesn't end in June. The work to advance & protect equality, celebrate diverse identities and foster a world where everyone belongs continues all year long. From parades to the classroom, we've got your back"*. Then the SHRC added a comment above that which said, *"Happy Pride Month, in Spokane, "we all belong!!!"*. Plus, in the comment section was posted a news story from KREM-TV, about "Washington AG testing hate crime hotline in three counties, including Spokane".
- Re-posted a post from "Spokane NAACP", in which the post was a meme-video about celebrating the Birthday of the Spokane NAACP Vice-President & new SHRC Commissioner Kurtis Robinson. Plus, the SHRC added a comment above that which said, *"Wishing SHRC Commissioner Kurtis Robinson a very happy birthday. Thank you for all your hard work and the love that you show our community!!! 🌈🌍🕊"*
- Re-posted a post several times from "City of Spokane - Municipal Government", in which the post was about "Cooling Areas Available" —High temperatures are expected in the region. Those in need of relief from the upcoming heat can visit Spokane Public Library locations or the Trent Resource & Assistance Center (TRAC) or the TRAC Homeless Shelter. For more info.
- Re-posted a post several times from "CoolSpokane", in which the post was about asking our community to start thinking about volunteering, donating, or hosting a pop-up cooling-stations.
- Re-posted a post from the City of Spokane Mayor's Office, in which the post was about "Mayor Lisa Brown is happy to

announce Kevin Hall as the new Chief of the City of Spokane Police Department. From public feedback to department personnel, it was clear our community wants a leader who demonstrates character, integrity, & accountability, brings best practices to the department, & is dedicated to the safety of everyone in our community. Chief Hall is that leader and I am grateful that he has agreed to serve in this role". Which the following is the Mayor's press-release.

- Posted a news story from Spokesman-Review Newspaper, which the story was about "Spokane media content manager Jeff Humphrey laid off at CityCable5 as \$50 million budget deficit looms".
- Re-posted a post from "Spokane Transit", in which the post was about "WEEKEND FORECAST: 🌡️ EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING 🌡️. STA provides fare exceptions to riders without fare payment to area cooling centers when temperatures reach 95° or higher. More details can be found on STA's website below."
- Posted a news story from Range Media, which the story was about "How will Spokane Transit Authority (STA) new top driver be chosen? Without your input." Also included in the comment section was the follow-up of the story, "Spokane Transit Authority will hear you now!".
- Posted a news story from the Spokane Journal of Business, which the story was about "SNAP plans affordable senior complex in Valley".
- Re-posted a post from the "ACLU of Washington", in which the post was about "Direct outreach is an important tool in addressing houselessness – it builds trust and community, and helps keep people alive. Jewels Helping Hands (JHH) is an organization providing this kind of outreach in Spokane." The ACLU recently had a conversation with the executive director Julie Garcia of JHH about the work they do, *and what we can all do to help our unhoused, underserved neighbors*. Read the full Q&A here: <https://aclu->

[wa.org/story/importance-direct-outreach-qa-jewels-helping-hands-spokane-based-service-organization-working?fbclid=IwY2xjawEVhSBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdG1c_rCm0DtrdTgv3qN7nlx7hq_wNQ_u-nEHLortMBOX9SdWdKR-NqIOww_aem_uHm0Qgr_1GYdQZ7G-kQ0A](https://www.wa.org/story/importance-direct-outreach-qa-jewels-helping-hands-spokane-based-service-organization-working?fbclid=IwY2xjawEVhSBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdG1c_rCm0DtrdTgv3qN7nlx7hq_wNQ_u-nEHLortMBOX9SdWdKR-NqIOww_aem_uHm0Qgr_1GYdQZ7G-kQ0A).

- Posted a news story from [Range Media](#), which the story was about ["Spokane Transit Authority will hear you now!"](#). Also included in the comment section was the previous story on the issue, ["How will Spokane Transit Authority \(STA\) new top driver be chosen? Without your input."](#).

SHRC Meeting

03 JULY 2024 / 5:38 PM-7:57PM / CITY COUNCIL

Attendees

COMMISSIONERS: Anwar Peace, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Brennan Schreibman, Kurtis Robinson, Livia Koh, Susan McFadden

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

Andres Grageda, legislative assistant to Councilmember Navarette: Homeless Bill of Rights proposal discussed- updated the resolution sent to City Council from SHRC, will be sent to the Urban Experience Committee, resolution could be amended by City Council

- brings up emailing City Council to advocate for the legislation

Agenda

Presentation from City of Spokane Planning- Climate Planning

- new climate provisions added to Growth Management Act in 2023
- Climate affects all aspects of planning, needs integrative approach

Focus: Climate Resilience, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental + Climate Justice

- not all climate impacts are created equal or distributed equally, recognizing disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations + emphasizing fair treatment will be implemented (HEAL act)
- Urban Heat Islands demonstrated

Climate Engagement

- understand Spokane's current state from diverse perspectives
- develop shared community Vision
- develop and refine draft goals and priorities

Phase 1: startup, exploring climate impacts + justice, auditing plans + policies, assess climate vulnerability + risk

Experience Matters - Fentanyl Crisis

- data on overdoses is around a year old for Spokane

- Experience Matters called on local governance to push for public health emergency
- passed resolution to address the fentanyl crisis in Spokane
- Mayor Brown declared emergency for opioid crisis

Spokane Regional Health District

- hosting community conversations
- public listening session Wednesday, July 24

Experience Matters

- continues to work on organizing efforts
- fentanyl is very deadly in very small quantities, Narcan is essential

OCREI Presentation

- mission is to identify + develop systems and behavioral change solutions that advance equitable outcomes
- envision 3 part structure: civil rights, equity + inclusion, education
- envision departments: Native American Affairs, Black Community Engagement, Immigrant + Refugee Affairs, Hispanic/LatinX Affairs, LGBTQ+ Community Engagements, etc.

Ongoing Work

- language access
- hate incident hotline
- ADA transition plan
- Title VI plan update
- City Wide Equity Assessment
- Human Resources DEI policy

Motion made by Chair Peace to extend the meeting by about 15 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Schreibman and passed

Commissioner Schreibman makes a motion for the whole commission to recommend the reappointment of the current Youth Position, seconded and passed

First Read of Ordinance

- includes provisions to expand commission to add potential 3 youth representatives and 1 additional adult commissioner

Meeting Adjourned



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.