



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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):

5:40-6:00

Debbie Novak & the Novak Family: Life of David Novak

6:00-6:20

Cynthia Manycolors & the Manycolors Family: Life of Bjorn Manycolors

6:20-6:40

Jim Leighty & the Leighty Family: Craig Johnson

6:40-7:00

Committee Updates:

- Executive
- Civic Impact
- Outreach

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>Nov 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—October 1, 2024**

Dear Commissioners,

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

### **❖ Commission Updates**

- City Council Staff reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to ask the Chair to be a part of the "City Council Press Conference" on 9/5/24 which was on the topic of the [City Council ORD C36549—an ordinance relating to the human rights & basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness](#). And a prep-meeting for the "Press Conference" held at City Hall on 9/3/24, which the Chair attended that prep-meeting & also the "City Council Press Conference" on 9/5/24.
- The SHRC Chair attended the "Spokane Homeless Coalition" meeting held at the Gathering House Cafe on the morning of 9/5/24. During this meeting there were presentations from: Homeless Service Providers, Community Courts and updates from Spokane Valley & other Service Providers.
- On 9/5/24 the SHRC Chair participated in a [Press Conference with City Council Members](#) on the topic of [City Council ORD C36549—an ordinance relating to the human rights & basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness](#) and inviting the community to take part in the "City Council Homeless Roundtable" on 9/10/24 and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 10/1/24.
- The SHRC Chair attended the **68<sup>th</sup> monthly** "[March to Demand Justice for David Novak](#)" event on 9/7/24 held at the Courthouse which the Chair has attended this event multiple times throughout the years.

- The SHRC Chair reached out to Debbie Novak, in order to have the Novak Family give a presentation to the Commission at the October SHRC meeting. The SHRC would be honored to get a presentation from the Novak family about the *life of David Novak*, who was **killed** by a Spokane Police Officer on 1/7/2019 which resulted in a \$4 million settlement from the City to the family. Also, we will hear from the family on what kind of Police-Reforms they want to see that can lower SPD's current ranking as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadliest police-force in the Nation. Debbie Novak agreed to this presentation.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Cynthia Manycolors, in order to have the Manycolors Family give a presentation to the Commission at the October SHRC meeting. The SHRC would be honored to get a presentation from the Manycolors family about the *life of Bjorn Manycolors*, who was **killed** by 2 Sheriff's Office Deputies on 6/3/2023. Also, we will hear from the family on what kind of Police-Reforms they want to see that can lower SPD's current ranking as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadliest police-force in the Nation. Cynthia Manycolors agreed to this presentation.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to Jim Leighty, in order to have the Leighty Family give a presentation to the Commission at the October SHRC meeting. The SHRC would be honored to get a presentation from the Leighty family about the *life of Craig Johnson*, who was **killed** by a Bonner County Sheriff's Sgt. on 9/26/2017. Also, we will hear from the family on what kind of Police-Reforms they want to see that can lower SPD's current ranking as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadliest police-force in the Nation. Jim Leighty agreed to this presentation.
- On 9/9/24 the City Council confirmed the reappointment of Commissioner Livia Koh as the Commission's designated Youth Representative, which this is their 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the SHRC in the 1-year position.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the Mayor's Office, in order to convey that the full Commission had recommended *Justice*

*Forral* as the top-pick for the Mayor to appoint them to the SHRC, which would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Commission has recommended them to this position under 2 different City Administrations.

- The SHRC Chair attended the "City Council's Homeless Roundtable" event on 9/10/24 held at the downtown Library, which the next meeting will be on 10/1/24 at the Library as well.
- The **new** [Spokane Police Chief, Kevin Hall](#), reached out to the SHRC Chair in order to set up a meeting to introduce himself to the SHRC. At that point the Chair then consulted with the SHRC Executive Committee on how to handle this request from the Police Chief's Office, which then we came up with an "Action-Plan" to move forward. That "Action-Plan" is as follows, the SHRC Executive Committee will meet with the Chief at his office on 10/23/24 and then after that we are working on having the Police Chief giving a presentation at the December SHRC public meeting.
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 9/22/24.
- On 9/30/24 the Spokane City Council passed their own resolution that supported [SHRC- RESOLUTION 2024-001---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.](#)
- 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](#) and also with [SHRC- RESOLUTION 2024-001---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.](#)

- Regularly communicated with the [SHRC Executive Committee](#) last month about *upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.*

### ❖ **Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion (OCREI)**

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

### ❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the October 3, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post from the ["ACLU of Washington"](#), in which the post was a meme saying the following, ["We cannot arrest our way out of Homelessness & Poverty"](#). Which the post included the following; "The simple truth is, we need long-term solutions that put the needs of people first. That looks like: [◆Housing we all can afford.](#) [◆Services such as counseling and job training.](#) [◆Providing basic incomes.](#) Prioritizing people's dignity and stability is much more effective and compassionate than punishing people for sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go."
- Re-posted a post multiple times from the [Spokane City Council](#), in which the post was about the ["Next Roundtable meeting \(and 2<sup>nd</sup>\) in the City Council's series addressing Spokane's unhoused population"](#) being held on 10/1/24 at the downtown library.
- Re-posted a post from ["The Way To Justice"](#), in which the post was about a news story from ["Spokane Journal of Business"](#) and that story was titled ["Justice perseveres: Young nonprofit law firm picks up where Center for Justice left off"](#).

# SHRC Meeting

05 SEPTEMBER 2024 / 5:46 PM-7:23PM / CITY COUNCIL

## Attendees

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

## Land Acknowledgement

## Public Comment

Andres Grageda, legislative assistant to Councilmember Navarette: update on Member Expansion + Youth Commissioner ordinance, going to have first reading next Monday

- Set to be voted on September 30th

## Agenda

### Chair's Report

### Presentation from Nicolette Ocheltree

- discussing the Homelessness Reponse System (SMC)
- presentation was also given to City Council
- signup for community roundtable on homelessness policies ends Sept 6, everyone is allowed to attend but must register to have a "seat" at the table

### Sit and Lie – SMC 10.60.020

- makes it unlawful to sit or lie upon anything that is not designed for sitting
  - exceptions do exist
  - one exception allows homeless to do so in the case that there is no shelter space is available
- penalty is a misdemeanor
- ordinance is in effect in an area of downtown
- demonstrates a chart of sit-and-lie citations

### Pedestrian Interference – SMC 10.60.010

### Unauthorized Camping on Public Property – SMC 12.02.1010

- flowchart, goes from misdemeanor and depending on situation can be jailed, or can be cited and released

### Enforcement – SMC 12.02.1010(c)

- Unlawful camping sections + protection against harm to waterways can be enforced at all times

### Martin v. Boise case froze Spokane's right to enforce restrictions on homelessness when there isn't space at homeless shelters

- Supreme Court ruled that laws to prevent unlawful camping, etc. are not cruel and unusual punishment when shelters do not have beds
- Cities do not have to account for shelter space

### Removal of Unauthorized Encampments – SMC 12.02.1011

- there are many code enforcement rules

### EWU created a map outlining Proposition 1's bounds are

### Title 18 sets up requirements for warming centers, basic rights for citizens in Spokane

- elaborates on the requirements for cooling/heating centers, safe air centers, as well as making the plan for these centers
- also discusses the screening process for homeless shelters

### Siting of Basic City Facilities – SMC 12.05.062

- putting forth criteria before placing a new or relocated city-owned Homeless Shelter
- involves Equity Subcommittee on new guidelines
- Commissioner Schreiber asks about the enforcement of Title 18
  - current process explained, goes through multiple steps of determination
- Commissioner McFadden asks about bathrooms for homeless, how do we get bus service so that there's no fee/basic help to those who need it
  - find the councilmember champion if you'd like to make it into a law



- Commissioner Koh asks about meeting minutes
- Chair Peace thanks presenter, discusses the work of the commission in the context of homeless rights

### **Presentation from [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#) from Duaa-Rahemaah Hunter and Michele Thomas**

- are doing a policy forum at SCC next Thursday (Sept 12)
- statewide organization with staff members across the state
- working on increasing housing stability and preventing homelessness
- advocates for state investments into affordable housing
- works to protect renters, improve housing security
- 2018 passed a bill to prevent discrimination based on income in renting
- advocating for rent stabilization
- Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund is a sister organization (c4 organization)
- have various programs across the state, hold meetings for Eastern Washington first Thursday every month @ Karl Maxey center at 4:00pm in person or Zoom
- Chair Peace thanks presenters for presentation and the work they are doing

### **Vacancy for Commission**

- Justice Forral is the finalist candidate
- Commissioner Schreiber moves to formally recommend to the Mayor's Office to move forward with Justice Forral as the finalist candidate, Commissioner McFadden seconds
  - Motion Passes

### **Meeting Adjourned**