



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Dec 5<sup>th</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):

5:40-5:45

Welcoming a new Commissioner

Commissioner Forral

5:45-5:55

SHRC Elections of New Outreach Committee Lead

5:55-6:20

Spokane Police Chief Presentation/Question & Answer

Chief Kevin Hall

6:20-6:35

Committee Updates

- Executive
- Civic Impact
- Outreach

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>Jan 2<sup>nd</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—December 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 Councilmember Jonathan Bingle called the SHRC Chair on the morning of 11/11/24, in order to wish the SHRC Chair a *happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday* and to also talk about *Human-Rights-Issues* in our community. This call is an annual phone call the SHRC Chair receives from Councilmember Bingle on their birthday, in which this year we discussed the candidate for the SHRC vacancy who was having their City Council Interview that day. It was during this discussion Councilmember Bingle said that after talking to the Chair, they now would be voting for that SHRC candidate, but 7 days later voted against them. Councilmember Bingle had to end the call early, due to an alarming email a citizen sent to the full City Council.
- On the afternoon of 11/11/24 SHRC Chair was at City Hall when a "*Lock-Down*" happened, which was due to an alarming email a citizen sent to the full City Council. The SHRC Chair was at City Hall to support the SHRC candidate who was interviewing with City Council that day, which that interview was moved to 11/18/24. While at City Hall a Spokesman-Review Reporter interviewed the SHRC Chair for the following news story, "[Threats from man accused of harassing 2 Spokane mayors causes lockdown and cancellation of City Council meetings](#)".
- A citizen reached out to the SHRC Chair on the evening of 11/11/24, in which they were asking for help with finding out

if their long-time-friend had been the one that died in jail on 11/8/24. [The jail released the name of the person who had died 2 days after that citizen had reached out to the Chair](#), and sadly the person who had died was in fact the long-time-friend of that citizen. At that point the Chair reached back out to that citizen, in order to offer them resources and to also connect them with other "*Impacted-Families*" who could help the citizen during their time of grief. It must also be noted that in 2015 the [SHRC calls on Justice Department to investigate jail](#), in which the Commission sent a letter to the DOJ because the [Human Rights Commission seeks investigation of Spokane jail deaths](#).

- A [KLXY-TV Reporter](#) reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to do an interview about a story on "[Spokane's scattered shelter system receives mixed responses](#)".
- The [Mayor's Office](#) reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to let them know that the [City Council Interview](#) with the [SHRC candidate](#) will take place on 11/14/24 after the interview was delayed due to the [City Hall "Lock-Down"](#) on 11/11/24. Also, the [Mayor's Office](#) said that the [City Council](#) will vote on the [SHRC candidate](#) on 11/18/24.
- On 11/14/24 the SHRC Chair attended the "[City Council Briefing Session](#)", in which the [SHRC candidate](#) was interviewing with City Council that day.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the [Eastern Washington Long-Term Care Ombuds](#), [Richard Danford](#), in order to let them know about the Commission's vote on 11/7/24 to be a part of the [Ombuds](#) request to have someone from the Commission to work with the new "long-term care committee" that the [Ombuds](#) was creating. That Commissioner will be [Commissioner Hernandez-Peck](#).
- The [City Council](#) voted to confirm the [SHRC candidate](#) on 11/18/24. The [SHRC Executive Committee](#) wishes to welcome [Commissioner Justice Forral](#) to the [SHRC](#), which their 1<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting will be on 12/5/24.

- The SHRC Chair attended the "City Council's Homeless Roundtable" event on 11/19/24 held at the downtown Library, in which this was the 5<sup>th</sup> roundtable-meeting, and the last meeting will be on 12/10/24 in City Council Chambers.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the Police Chief's Office, in order to confirm his "Q&A" Presentation to the full Commission on 12/5/24. The Police Chief's Office then did confirm this event.
- On 11/21/24 the SHRC Chair attended the [2024 Human Rights Champions Awards Banquet & Celebration](#) held at the Spokane Convention Center. This event is hosted by the [Spokane County Human Rights Task Force](#) in partnership with the SHRC, which this year the Commission paid for 2 tables at the event. Other **Commissioners & City-Staff** that attended the event at the Commissions tables were as follows; the SHRC Executive Team, Commissioner Hernandez-Peck, Commissioner Harrison, City Councilmember Lili Navarrete, City Council Manager of Housing & Homelessness Initiatives, and 3 City Council Legislative Assistants. And the **Keynote Speaker** was "Travis McAdams" of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which the Awards Banquet & Celebration was honoring the following people with the **"Human-Rights Champions Awards"**: John & Cindy Bryant, Taylor Crisp, Robert Lloyd & The Black Lens, Tony Stewart, Norm Gissel, & Diana Gissel, Ping Ping Zhou, and the late Rev. Happy Watkins - Community Pillar Champion ([sadly Rev. Watkins passed away on 10/25/24](#)).
- Held an SHRC Executive Committee Meeting on 11/24/24.
- The SHRC Chair reached out to the Mayor's Office on 11/26/24, in order to remind them that 2 Commissioners need to be reappointed before 12/31/24. Those Commissioners are Commissioner Knox and Commissioner Schreibman, which this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Chair has made this reminder, and the last time was on 10/14/24 with the

Mayor's Office responding on 11/13/24 that they were working on it.

- The Deputy City Administrator reached out to the SHRC Chair, in order to see if the Chair would be willing to serve on the "Selection Committee" for the C.O.P.S. formal procurement process. The City's current contract for related services with C.O.P.S. terminates at the end of the year, which now the City is going to solicit proposals for community policing services through a formal procurement process or what is known as "Request for Proposals (RFPs)". On 11/27/24 Range Media published a news story about this, which was titled "Public Trust Issues for C.O.P.S.". The SHRC Chair agreed to be a part of that "Selection Committee".
- Held an "Onboarding-Meeting for the new Commissioner" with the SHRC Executive Committee on 12/1/24.
- Regularly communicated with the SHRC Executive Committee last month about *upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues*.

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

- The OCREI Director called the SHRC Chair, in order to relay the City Administrations' plan to remove the Monaghan Statue which the SHRC voted for the removal on 11/4/21. The Mayor's Office had a meeting on 11/19/24, which after that meeting the OCREI Director reached out to the SHRC Chair to get feedback on the City Administrations' plan for removal. The planning process includes all "Stakeholders" and also has a realistic timetable for the Statue to be taken down respectfully.
- Regularly communicated with the OCREI Director Jerrall Haynes last month, about upcoming agenda items or other Commission issues.

#### ❖ **Social Media (Facebook)**

- Created the December 5, 2024 SHRC meeting event. As well as posting the Agenda in the comment post section.
- Re-posted a post from the Fig Tree Magazine, in which the post was about the recent passing of Rev. Percy "Happy"

[Watkins who was a champion for civil & human rights in the Inland Northwest.](#)

- Re-posted a post from the [Carl Maxey Center](#), in which the post was about [remembering the life of Rev. Percy "Happy" Watkins, a beloved community leader known for his passion for social justice, equity, and uplifting the African American community in Spokane.](#)
- Re-posted a post from the [City of Spokane Police Department](#), in which the post was about "[Police Chief Kevin Hall being appointed co-chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\) Research Advisory Committee.](#) This committee provides guidance, advice, & direction to the association, law enforcement practitioners, researchers, university-based scholars, & the criminal justice system regarding all aspects of law enforcement policy research & evaluation".
- Posted a news story from [KHQ-TV](#), which the story was about "[Spokane Fire Department reminds public to carry Narcan](#)".
- Re-posted a post from the "[City of Spokane Fire Department](#)", in which the post was about "[Last week, the Washington State Department of Health issued a \*\*Health Alert\*\* regarding a statewide increase in opioid overdoses in Washington. A sustained rise in overdoses began in August 2024 and continued through October 31, 2024, reversing a downward trend in overdose reports that started in July 2023](#)".
- Re-posted a post from the "[Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation](#)", in which the post was about "[Every day is a day to give thanks!](#)".

# SHRC Meeting

07 NOVEMBER 2024 / 5:39 PM-7:35PM / CITY COUNCIL

## Attendees

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

## Land Acknowledgement

## Public Comment

- Richard Danford, long-term care ombudsman, bringing up long-term care patient issues in emergency rooms and elsewhere—especially those with developmental disabilities, requests to have someone from commission work with long-term care committee to work on these issues
- Andres Grageda, legislative assistant, SHRC now has capacity for 2 more Youth Representatives and 1 more regular member, can start recruiting

## Agenda

### Chair's Report

### Gathered list for attendees of Human Rights Awards

### Andres Grageda- Language Access and Recruitment Ordinance

- ordinance increasing the value of multilinguality
- strengthening language access in the municipal code
- Commissioners Knox, McFadden, Schreibman asked questions + discussed code

Motion to support the ordinance passed

### Election of Officers and Committee Leads

- Motion and 2nd for Commissioner Knox as Chair, motion passed
- Motion and 2nd for Commissioner Schreibman as Vice Chair, motion passed
- Motion and 2nd for Commissioner Koh as Secretary/Treasurer, motion passed
- Motion and 2nd for Commissioner McFadden as Executive Committee Lead, motion passed



**Motion on Long-Term Care Issues passed**

- Commissioner Hernandez-Peck as point of contact with Long-Term Care Committee

**Meeting with Police Chief Kevin Hall summarized**

- Chief will be present at December meeting for Q&A

**Meeting Adjourned**

# INVOICE

**DATE**

November 1, 2024

**INVOICE NO**

1004



P.O. Box 4552,  
Spokane, WA 99220

**INVOICE TO**

Spokane Human Rights Commission  
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
509-625-6729

**SPONSORSHIP**

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Table of 8 - Champions Banquet	2 quantity	\$400.00 each	\$800.00
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Total