



Spokane Human Rights Commission

The Jan 2nd, 2025 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 Knox

Standing Update(s):

5:40-6:15

2025 Workplan

Chair Knox

6:15-6:25

Assign Commissioners to Outreach & Civic Impact Committees

6:25-6:35

Appoint Application Review Panel

6:35-7:00

Proposed Bylaw Ammendments

Vice Chair Schreibman

	Adjournment	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for Feb 6th, 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 January 1, 2025

This report also serves as an end-of-year report to the community and Spokane City Council, as prescribed in 22.1 of the SHRC bylaws.

Dear Commissioners,

In 2024, the Spokane Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has made significant strides in promoting positive change within our community. By leveraging the tools at our disposal, we have worked together to *strengthen & uphold Human Rights* in the Spokane area. The accomplishments of this Commission this year are truly something to be proud of, and none of this would have been possible without the dedication & hard work of each and every one of you. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all 9 Commissioners for your *unwavering commitment & effort* over the past year.

Plus, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow Commissioners for electing me again as Chair for 2024. *It is truly an honor to have represented you all while also "sharing space" as well with you all*, and I hope you all are proud of how I have served in this role. When I took over as SHRC Chair 2 years ago, I was both scared & nervous. I am incredibly thankful for the amazing SHRC Executive Committee, whose *support & guidance* helped ease my fears & shaped my leadership journey. Vice-Chair Brennan Schreibman & Secretary Livia Koh have been outstanding partners in this work, and on behalf of the Commission, I want to thank them for their ***tireless-efforts*** in ensuring the smooth & efficient operation of our Commission.

For 2024, the SHRC made a significant commitment to addressing *long-standing issues* within the community that have required focused attention & support. The SHRC's 2024 Workplan served as a roadmap for tackling these critical issues, guiding the Commission's efforts throughout the year. A key part of this process involved receiving 19

presentations from Community-Organizations during our SHRC public meetings held in City Council Chambers on the 1st Thursday of every month, and all of which these presentations were delivered by **subject-matter experts**. These “**experts**” provided invaluable insights into the issues outlined in the SHRC Workplan, offering a *deep & informed perspective* on the challenges faced by the community. These presentations played a central role in shaping the Commission’s work. The knowledge shared by these community-partners formed the foundation for the SHRC’s final work product. By collaborating with these organizations & hearing their expertise firsthand, the Commission was able to ensure that its approach was rooted in a clear understanding of the issues, making the work of the SHRC more *impactful & informed*. The sharing of space with these organizations & the opportunity to listen to their perspectives was an essential part of the SHRC’s efforts to address the needs of the community effectively.

During 2024 the SHRC collaborated closely with our community-partners, in order to *help & support* the passage of City Council legislation and/or assistance with getting their messaging out to the community. This 1st started at the end of 2023 when City Council Manager of Equity & Inclusion Initiatives asked the SHRC Chair to attend 4 private-events, in which these were meetings with Community-Stakeholders & City Council Members who then together crafted a draft City Council Resolution--“*Against Antisemitism & Islamophobia*”. It was then at the 1/22/24 City Council meeting the Council approves compromise resolution on Israel-Palestine conflict, in which those Community-Stakeholders & City Council Members had crafted together and that was the 1st time in Spokane history that legislation had been made with this kind of collaboration with the Community-Stakeholders involved in the subject matters.

Collaborating closely with our community-partners was an ongoing theme for the SHRC in 2024, with the Commission being a part of 2 *joint “Press-Releases”* and also being a part of 2 *joint “Press-Conferences”*. One of the *joint “Press-Releases”* we did was with S.N.A.P. (Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners), in which the

release was announce that Richard Danford – Regional Ombuds with the Eastern Washington Long-term Ombudsman Program will be a featured speaker at the SHRC’s upcoming monthly meeting on 5/2/24. The 2nd *joint “Press-Release”* we did was with the organization “Spokane Reimagined”, in which the release was about announcing the opposition of how the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) hiring process for a new CEO that would include no official input from employees of the agency or the public that uses & pays for its services. The next day after the *“Press-Release”* & the media coverage of it, the STA will now implement a CEO hiring process with public & employee input--after community & transit stakeholder feedback. And as for the 2 *joint “Press-Conferences”*. Both of those were with the City Council, in which one was on “Spokane city leaders condemn vandalism of downtown Pride mural” and the other *“Press-Conference”* was on “Spokane City Council President Addresses Homeless Ordinances”—like the Commission’s “Homeless Bill of Rights Law”.

Even though the SHRC on 10/5/23 passed RESOLUTION 2023-03--A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness, for all of 2024 the Commission has been working with the City Council to get it turned into a Law. **Here is a brief timeline of that legislative process:** 7/22/24--City Council has 1st reading of ORD C36549--Human Rights for those experience Homelessness Ordinance. On 8/12/24 ORD C36549 was *up for Vote* by the City Council, but it was Deferred for 2 weeks after the business community raised concerns. But *10 days later* ORD C36549 was “Indefinitely-Deferred” by City Council, and then that legislation was sent back to the committee for review 8/22/24. At that point on 9/5/24 the City Council with the SHRC Chair held a “Press Conference” about the *upcoming roundtable discussions meetings on Homelessness*. It was then on 9/10/24 the 1st round table discussion on Homelessness was held at the downtown library. The 2nd roundtable meeting was on 10/1/24 with the 3rd roundtable meeting on 10/22/24, and on 11/7/24 the 4th roundtable meeting was held with the 5th roundtable meeting being held on 11/19/24. The 6th

& final roundtable meeting was held at City Hall in City Council Chambers on 12/10/24. **It must be noted** that in all 6 roundtable discussion meetings held by the City Council, nether the SHRC's RESOLUTION 2023-03--A resolution concerning the human rights and basic dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness nor the City Council ORD C36549--Human Rights for those experience Homelessness Ordinance was put on the meetings agenda for discussion. As for going forward in 2025, the SHRC hopes & encourages the City Council to move forward with their own legislation on *protecting the Human Rights of our Homeless Neighbors*. Regardless of what the City Council does on this matter, the SHRC will *continue to lift up the voices of our Homeless Neighbors while also advocating to City Government* for the Human Rights & adequate resources for all of those—**whether they have a home or not**.

Another aspect of 2024 for the SHRC was collaborating closely with our community-partners, like the Spokane Police Department (SPD). With the coming of a new Police Chief, the SHRC worked on rebuilding its' relationship with SPD. The SHRC Chair on 6/28/24 attended the Police Chief Finalist Public Interview Forum, in which the Chair was able to ask questions to the candidates. Then on 8/24/24 the SHRC Chair attended the Police Chief Kevin Hall's Swearing-In Ceremony, in which the Chair was able to invite the Chief to meet with the Commission. At that point on 10/23/24 the SHRC Executive Committee had a *private meeting* with Chief Hall at his office, in which this meeting was *very informative on who he is as a person and also on who he is as a Chief, plus we got to learn more in-depth of Chief Hall's vision for the Spokane Police Department (SPD)*. After that it was on 12/5/24 at the SHRC public meeting, Chief Hall was the Commissions guest presenter. During these engagements with Chief Hall the SHRC was able to make "2-asks" of Chief Hall, which the Chief agreed to both of them. One of those "asks" of the Chief was allowing the SRHC to participate in **"SPD's Virtual Shooting Simulator"**, which the Commission would like to try to schedule the **"Virtual Simulator"** possibly shortly after the new year in order to

allow for new Commissioners to get onboarded. And that 2nd "asks" of the Chief was on having him participate in the "SRHC's Courageous Conversation community meetings with other Spokane Law Enforcement leadership & 'Impacted-Families'", which the Commission will be planning for possibly the springtime of 2025 to hold the "Courageous Conversation meetings".

Other notable things the SHRC did in 2024, we as a Commission passed 3 Proclamations and 1 very important Resolution. Those Proclamations were, one was on recognizing June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Spokane and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all, which the 2nd Proclamation was on recognizing & honoring Debbie Novak's indefatigable efforts, her leadership, and her accomplishments in her work advocating for police reform in our community, and the last one was on thanking the SHRC Chair for their leadership in our community. As for that 1 very important Resolution from the Commission that was 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. With RESOLUTION 2024-001 it now allows the Commission to have 3 Youth Representative positions for each of the City Council Districts, and it also allows the 9th position on the Commission to be turned back into an Adult position with a full 3 year term. On 9/30/24 the City Council passed ORD C36578--An ordinance relating to the recruitment of applicants to the SHRC, amending section 4.10.020 of the Spokane Municipal Code and then the Mayor signed this into Law.

2024 for the SHRC saw our current Youth Commissioner Livia Koh get reappointed to their 3rd term by the Mayor's Office, in which they will continue to serve on the SHRC Executive Committee as the Commission's Secretary/Treasurer for a 2nd term. Also, this year the SHRC welcomed 3 new Commissioners, who were appointed & confirmed by the City Council. Those new Commissioners are; Commissioner Susan McFadden, Commissioner Kurtis Robinson and Commissioner Justice Forral. The Commission would like to thank those new Commissioners for their willingness to serve, and we look

forward to their contributions. And for 2025 the Commission will have a new Chair of the SHRC, which will be Commissioner Alex Knox who will have the same SHRC Executive Committee that has been in place for the last 2 years.

With that being said, as I end my "Chairmanship" with the Commission after a tenure of 2 years and move back into the role of a Commissioner for another year on my 3 year term on the SHRC, I wish to thank all of those that *helped & supported* my work as the SHRC Chair during 2023 & 2024. *First & foremost*, I want to give a **big thank you** to the SHRC Executive Committee and at the same time I wanted to **thank** City Staff and the City Administration for their help with the Commission needs. Also, I want to give a **huge thanks** to the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, & Inclusion (ORCEI) Director Jerrall Haynes, not only for all of their hard work for the Commission, but also for being a *great friend* to the SHRC Chair who has given me *wonderful guidance & council* over the years. Others that I want to **thank & appreciate** are: City's Manager of Equity & Inclusion Alex Gibilisco and City's Manager of Housing and Homelessness Nicolette Ocheltree. Plus, my **sincerest gratitude & thanks** goes out to the **tireless-efforts** of the SHRC City Council Liaison City Council Member Lili Navarrete and their Legislative Assistant Andres Grageda.

Finally, I would like to thank the Spokane Community and the Community-Partners of the SHRC, who they are the real reason we do the work we do on the Commission in order to create a place where

"IN SPOKANE, WE ALL BELONG"!!!

With Much Respect,

Anwar Peace,

Outgoing-Chair of the Spokane Human Rights Commission

2024 SHRC Presentations

1/4/24--Odyssey Youth Movement- Ian Sullivan *Equity for LGBTQ+ Youth*

2/1/24--Spokane NAACP- Vice President Kurtis Robinson *Acknowledgment of Black History Month & background on the organization*

3/6/24--Spokane NAACP- Vice President Jamie Stacy *Acknowledgment of Women's History Month*

3/6/24-- Catholic Charities- CEO Robert McCann *Homelessness & Housing*

4/4/24--Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS)- D Joshua Mayer *Homelessness & Fentanyl-Crisis*

5/2/24-- SNAP--Eastern Washington Long-Term Care Ombuds Program- Ombudsman Richard Danford *Background & future for the organization*

6/6/24--Spokane NAACP- President Lisa Gardner *Acknowledgement of Federal Holiday, JUNETEENTH*

6/6/24--Black Lens News Paper- Editor Natasha Hill *Background & future for the organization*

7/3/24--City's Planning Services- Senior Planner Maren Murphy

7/3/24--Experience Matters- Ami Manning/Angel Tomeo-Sam *Homelessness & Fentanyl-Crisis*

7/3/24--Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion- Director Jerrall Haynes *Background & future for the organization*

8/1/24--City's Manager of Equity & Inclusion- Alex Gibilisco *Background on the work the Manager does*

9/5/24--City's Manager of Housing and Homelessness- Nicolette Ocheltree *Background on the work the Manager does*

9/5/24--Washington Low Income Housing Alliance- Duaa-Rahemaah Hunter *Homelessness & Housing*

10/3/24--Debbie Novak & the Novak Family *Life of David Novak*

10/3/24--Cynthia Manycolors & the Manycolors Family *Life of Bjorn Manycolors*

10/3/24--Jim Leighty & the Leighty Family *Life of Craig Johnson*

11/7/24--Language Access & Recruitment Ordinance- City Council LA
Andres Grageda

12/5/24--Spokane Police Chief Presentation/Question & Answer-
Chief Kevin Hall

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BYLAWS FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION AND ACTION AT ITS JANUARY 2, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

*As authorized by the Commission Bylaws, Section XXII
("Amendments to Commission Rules"), Subsection 22.1.¹*

*Proposed additions are indicated in **bold font**;
proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strikethrough~~ font.*

XX. OTHER PROCEDURES

(20.1) Any member who ~~misses~~ **fails to attend** more than three (3) **regular or special Commission** meetings of the full SHRC in a twelve (12) month period and/or fails to participate in SHRC other **Commission** activities **for which they have previously committed, and that** have not been excused **in advance** ~~(at the discretion of by the Chair or Vice Chair), or if there are any other mitigating factors of the member's behavior that is brought to the attention of the SHRC or Chair,~~ **who otherwise engages in conduct inconsistent with the mission and/or values of the Commission,** may be asked to resign from the Commission by the Chair. **In the event the member refuses to resign, the Chair shall submit to City Council a written request for the removal of the member pursuant to the procedures set forth in SMC 04.10.025.**

(20.2) If a member is asked to resign or if they are removed from the SHRC **Commission by City Council,** the Chair shall notify the other **Commission** members of the decision as well as the coordinator of the City Boards and Commissions **advising of the vacancy.**

(20.3) Any member who resigns, **or is removed,** ~~or has completed their full terms of the SHRC~~ cannot reapply ~~for a seat on~~ **to serve on** the Commission until one (1) full year after their last day of their notification of resignation, **or removal from the Commission** ~~or term completion has passed.~~

(20.4) **Members are expected to attend all regular Commission meetings in person. Special meetings may be attended virtually.** All members who cannot **attend** ~~make a regular or special meeting, or who cannot attend a regular meeting of the SHRC in person, must~~ **notify** ~~may be excused by the Chair or Vice Chair upon a showing of good cause submitted to the Chair or Vice Chair of their absence at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, except in cases of extenuating and/or unforeseen circumstances. The purpose of the 48-hour notification requirement is so the Chair or Vice Chair can confirm a quorum will be present at the meeting.~~

The Chair or Vice Chair shall determine whether the basis for nonattendance constitutes "good cause" or if the untimely excusal request constitutes "extenuating and/or unforeseen circumstances." If the Chair or Vice Chair determines good cause or "extenuating and/or unforeseen circumstances" are not satisfied, the member shall be marked as failing to attend the meeting. If the member disagrees with the Chair's or Vice

¹ "(22.1) The rules of the SHRC may be modified, amended, suspended, or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of Commission rules, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each member at least 24 hours before the time or the meeting to cast a vote on the change occurs."

Chair's determination, the member may request reconsideration by submitting a statement to the Executive Committee, who shall consider the matter at the Executive Committee's subsequent monthly meeting and render a final decision by majority vote.

All committee meetings may be held and attended virtually. All members who cannot ~~attend~~ **attend** make a committee meeting must notify the Lead of their respective committees **at least 48 hours in advance absent extenuating and/or unforeseen circumstances.**

(20.5) ~~The Chair of the SHRC~~ may establish other such Commission procedures and take such other action as may be necessary to carry out the rules of the Commission or to facilitate the effective operation of the Commission and its committees in a manner consistent with these rules.

(20.6) All **members of the** ~~Commissioners of the City of Spokane Human Rights~~ Commission shall do their best to attend at least one community meeting, event, workshop, symposium, conference or gathering each month as a representative of the ~~Human Rights~~ Commission. All ~~Commissioners~~ **members** shall **report** ~~share~~ their experiences at these events **to their respective committee lead, who shall include the member's monthly activities** at the following **regular Commission** meeting during the time **allotted for committee updates** ~~with the rest of the Human Rights Commission.~~

¹“(22.1) The rules of the SHRC may be modified, amended, suspended, or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of Commission rules, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each member at least 24 hours before the time or the meeting to cast a vote on the change occurs.”

SHRC Meeting

05 DECEMBER 2024 / 5:35 PM-7:30PM / CITY COUNCIL

Attendees

COMMISSIONERS: Anwar Peace, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Brennan Schreibman, Livia Koh, Alex Knox, Susan McFadden, Justice Forral

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

- Debbie Novak, mother of David Novak, asks audience + commission to contact the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations to make Spokane their next region, thanked SHRC and Chair Peace
- Ivan Urnovintz, president of Spokane Council Navy League of the United States, discussing Monaghan statue

Agenda

Outreach Committee Elections

- Commissioner Forral nominated for Outreach Committee Lead via motion and second. Motion carries unanimously.

Vice Chair Schreibman brings forth and reads Proclamation 24-002, recognizing Chair Anwar Peace's exemplary service to the Commission.

- Moved and seconded to adopt Proclamation 24-002. Motion carries unanimously.

Police Chief Kevin Hall Q&A Session

- discussion of Chief Hall's positions
- discussion of evidence-based policing
- discussion of unhoused population and policing

Meeting Adjourned