

City of Spokane Human Rights Commission

December 4, 2025, 5:30-7:30 pm

The Thursday, December 4, 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.*

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Access code: 577 455 431#

Mission Statement/Purpose: The Human Rights Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding issues related to human rights and unjust discrimination and the implementation of programs consistent with the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane.

5:30—Land acknowledgement (Anwar)

5:35-5:45—Citizen comment (3 min each)

5:45-6:30—Budget review with City representative (Jerrall)

- How do current budget restraints impact the most vulnerable/marginalized Spokane residents?
- What is the Commission’s role in influencing policy direction?
- What do we believe the priorities need to be—how can we most effectively?

6:30-7:00—Review of 2026 work-plan

Work plan 2026

- Strengthen Title 18 to clarify the HRCs role in supporting community members who experience discrimination (See above Title 18.01.050, B, 6)
- Focus on helping all residents know their rights
- Participate in Community meetings (at City Hall and the broader community) when decisions are likely to impact marginalized residents
- Fill the commission (we will have 6 open seats in January, including 4 youth)
- Focus on issues surrounding AGING—What meaningful action can we take to protect those who are aging & vulnerable in Spokane?
 - Plan educational outreach for community February 2026
- Develop a “What We Believe/Where We Stand” document for a communal voice when commissioners are at community events’

- Living document that will grow and be edited at every meeting to help guide & empower our collective voice
- The City of Spokane Human Rights Commission empowers every commissioner to speak on behalf of the commission when referencing the “What We Believe/Where We Stand” list.
- Voice legislative priorities & advocate for the marginalized

*As we ready ourselves to advocate in 2026, in the words of **Andrea Gibson**:*

NO SUCH THING AS THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER

Silence rides shotgun

wherever hate goes.

Spokane Human Rights Commission work-day/retreat minutes

November 15, 2025, 10 am-3 pm

Present: Maria Peck, Justice Foral, Kurtis Robinson, Wealthy Vue, Sue McFadden, Brennan Schriebman

Absent: Anwar Peace

Welcome Wealthy to your first meeting of the Commission!

Our mission: *The Human Rights Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding issues related to human rights and unjust discrimination and the implementation of programs consistent with the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane.*

Morning activity: Knowing each other

- Land acknowledgement (Justice)
- Shared task
- Breathing/somatic work (Thank you Kurtis)
- Commissions charge. Review of our current duties/functions. (Thank you Boone)
 - Extensive discussion related to Title 18 Spokane Municipal Code
 - Focus on Title 18.01.050—“and complaints shall be reviewed by the HRC”
 - 18.01.050 B. 6. *Complaints that claim a violation of state or federal law shall be ~~shall be~~ **shall also be** referred to the appropriate state or federal agency.*
- Communal lunch with time to share

What are my hopes for this commission?

What does our commission believe collectively?

For 2026? For the future?

What do I believe a “Human rights commission” should do?

Afternoon Focus: Building our Community—Who are we as a group?

2026 goal setting & committee work: Set plan Review work plan; create 2026 goals What do we need to make that happen?

Goal of the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission:

- Transform the structure of city government to allow for community co-governance
- Allow marginalized groups to be part of the solution (power shift in leadership)
 - Focus on Title 18.01.050—“and complaints shall be reviewed by the HRC”
- References:
 - “We the people” Mark Charles
 - Citizen’s Handbook, Arneston; citizenshandbook.org (We may want to periodically check in on where we are on the Ladder of Citizen control)

Committee work (Outreach, Civic engagement, Executive)

- Plan is to add Education committee

- Goal is to have a educational event that helps the community understand Human Rights issues every other month (6 per year). Plan to be held at the Library with invitation to community to participate.
 1. February—Issues around aging & housing (Maria)
 - Consider Director of ALTCEW & Ombudsman
 2. March—3rd Courageous Conversation (Kurtis)
 - Police officers & community members together.
 3. April—CDC to educate Narcan. (Justice)
 - CDC representative. Consider adding WSU/UW Equity circle to discuss harm reduction (Sue)
 4. Future ideas: Marin Murphy
- Civic engagement—Members of HRC are granted the authority to show up at community meetings as representatives of the HRC.

We are committed to being present at municipal & community committees & groups, starting with but not limited to the following:

 - Ethics: Justice
 - Urban Planning: Sue
 - Public Safety: Kurtis
 - Human Rights Spokane: Justice
 - Groups related to Aging (Aging and Long-term care, Frontier Behavioral Health): Maria
- Outreach
 - Publish our agenda so that we encourage community presence at our meetings
 - Support the scheduling of community events

Work plan 2026

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