

## Spokane Human Rights Commission



Thursday, June 4, 2026

5:30-7:30

The Thursday, June 4, 2026 meeting will provide for in person attendance. The meeting will be held in the City Council briefing room—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.*

+1-323-618-1887

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.

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

5:30 - 5:40 Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment. Citizens are invited to address the Commission. (3 min each)

5:40 - 5:45 Roll Call & Approval of Agenda (McFadden)

5:45-6:30—Police accountability update (Debbie Novak, Washington Coalition for Police Accountability)

- Update 2026 legislative session
  - Law Enforcement Leaders Bill SB 5974
  - HB 1520

- State-wide initiatives
- Local issues
  - What has been hopeful?
  - What was disappointing? Infuriating?
  - What can the Commission do to help? Next steps...

6:30-7—Pride 2026

- June 13—
  - Parade 12-1
  - Festival 1-??
  - Dance party starts at 6 😊

7-7:30

- New member update
- Plan for July, rest of summer

What we believe—what do we want to add?

December start:

- We believe in a transparent, public-facing city budget that prioritizes the needs of our most marginalized residents.

Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for **July 2, 2026**

Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on.

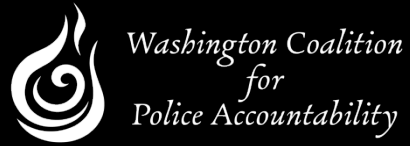
~~Robert Kennedy Sr, Attorney General, 1961

Sometimes we forget in both policy and training the sanctity of human life. The sanctity of human life is and should be our guiding light. And that means we slow down, we take more time, we use our critical decision-making skills.

~~Chief Kevin Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Courageous Conversation, July 30, 2025

We are what we imagine. Our very existence consists in our imagination of ourselves. Our best destiny is to imagine, at least, completely, who and what, and that we are. The greatest tragedy that can befall us is to go unimagined.

~~N. Scott Momaday, Kiowa poet



# Senate Bill 5974: The Law Enforcement Leaders Bill and Its Impact on local Sheriffs

Presentation to the City of Spokane Human Rights  
Commission

Presented by WCPA

**"Sheriffs  
Bill"**

**"Law  
Enforcement  
Leaders Bill"**

**"Senate Bill  
5974"**

**These are all names referring  
to the same legislation.**

# What SB 5974 Does



**Creates statewide eligibility requirements for sheriffs, chiefs, and marshals**



**Requires at least five years of law enforcement experience**



**Requires certification or certification within nine months**



**Requires no felony convictions or disqualifying misconduct**



**Allows removal if certification is lost or requirements are no longer met**

# Eligibility Requirements



**Must be at least 25 years old**



**Must be a U.S. citizen**



**Must have a high school diploma or equivalent**



**Must have five years of full-time law enforcement experience**



**Must not have conduct that would revoke certification**



# Changes to Volunteer and Posse Programs

- ✔ **Limits what volunteers can do**
- ✔ **Volunteers cannot enforce criminal law**
- ✔ **Volunteers cannot detain, arrest, or use deadly force**
- ✔ **Impacts rural sheriff posses and reserve programs**

# Changes to Volunteer and Posse Programs



**Creates  
accountability**



**Holds  
sheriffs to the  
same  
standards as  
rank-and-file  
officers**



**Prevents  
misconduct  
by law  
enforcement  
leaders**



**Improves  
public trust**

# Why the CJTC Complaint System Matters

- ✓ The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission first began handling officer certification complaints in 2004
- ✓ At that time, only one staff member was assigned to investigate complaints statewide
- ✓ Critics argued the system was too small to properly investigate misconduct by officers across Washington
- ✓ Senate Bill 5051, passed in 2021, greatly expanded the CJTC's authority and complaint system
- ✓ SB 5051 broadened the grounds for officer decertification and required more reporting of misconduct by agencies
- ✓ Today, the CJTC has a staff of about 21 people dedicated to certification and misconduct cases. Nine of those staff members are investigators.
- ✓ Supporters argue this expansion created a more credible and professional accountability system

# Current Status



**Passed  
Legislature**



**Signed by  
Governor  
Bob  
Ferguson on  
April 1, 2026**



**Effective April  
30, 2026**



**Legal  
challenges  
are already  
being filed**

# Thank You



*Washington Coalition  
for  
Police Accountability*