Spokane Human Rights Commission

CITY OF SPOKANE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Thursday, November 5, 2026

5:30-7:00

The Thursday, November 5, 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.*

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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.

T I M E S G I V E N A R E A N E S T I M A T E A N D A R E S U B J E C T T O C H A NGE

5:30 - 5:40 Land Acknowledgement

In spite of our agonizing history, Native American people find much to celebrate. The songs, the dances, the culture and traditions surrounding planting and harvests, the prayers that are sent upward for healing and peace, and the welcoming of children into our families, are all reasons for us to keep moving forward with optimism.

November is Native American Heritage month, and a good time to honor the legacy of our ancestors, but every day we should stop to think about our country's beginning and that the United States would not exist if not for a great deal of sacrifice, blood, and tears by Indian Tribes across the country. ~~Deb Haaland, Governor-Elect New Mexico, Laguna Pueblo

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

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

5:45-5:55 Updates

- No Kings Rally—*Thank you to Commissioner Robinson for representing us!*
- Joshua Musselman case reopened—Following community outrage related to texts written by the officers involved in Joshua Musselman's death, the city prosecutor reopened the investigation related to the police-involved shooting & death of Joshua Musselman. *Thank you to Debbie Novak for inviting the HRC to participate in this call for justice.*
- Local election issues
    - Initiative 001—Parents "Bill of Rights"—lost;
        - Good news for protecting the privacy rights of students seeking counseling/support in schools
    - Initiative 638—Transgender athlete eligibility—passed;
        - Requires "proof" of biological sex for girls to participate in sports. We have work to do here! This initiative provides a significant barrier to participation, impacting over 50% of our youth.
    - Initiative 645—"Millionnaires tax" repeal—lost ;
        - Good news for our state's budget & hopefully for the people of Washington. Opportunity for the Commission to advocate for this revenue to be allocated equitably.

We are not helpless. It's time to show up. Let's show up for our neighbors whose voices aren't being heard. Let's show up for people of color, low income, rural and Indigenous folks. Let's show up for our children who deserve a world better than we found it.

~ Mary Peltola, Alaska Senate Candidate, Yup'ik

5:55--6:45 What does "dignity" look like for the residents of Spokane? (Forral)

Who do we want Spokane to be?

How does dignity of Spokane residents relate to the UN Declaration of Human Rights (our guiding document?);

- *Article 7*: We are all equal before the law.

- Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to equal pay, to protection against unemployment and the right to form and join trade unions.
- *Article 24:* Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.
- Article 25: Everyone has the right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services.

- Residents & visitors in Spokane deserve:
    1. Proper places to dispose of garbage
    2. Accessible sidewalks
    3. Available bathrooms
    4. Clean water
    5. Places to rest
    6. Opportunities to work

- Issues
    1. Collective punishment—*when bathrooms are closed, garbage cans removed, sidewalks are blocked*—**we all suffer.**
    2. Blocked sidewalks—*where is the accessibility?*
    3. Businesses punished for helping the most vulnerable: *7-11 noted as a "chronic nuisance" property on 2nd & Division*

- *Proposed asks:*
    1. *Remove sidewalk barriers on Division & first (under viaduct)*
    2. *Provide garbage cans throughout the city, especially in the downtown core*
    3. *Acknowledge the proprietor of the 7-11 on Division for serving the downtown neighborhood regardless of their patron's circumstances*

6:45-7 Community safety—addressing domestic violence (Maynard)

Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2026.

For months now, I have been telling you that this campaign was about the many vs. the money. ***The many just won.***

~~Peggy Flanagan, Senator-elect Minnesota, White Earth Nation