

**ORDINANCE NO. C-\_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE designating the Lunar New Year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth as official City of Spokane holidays, making technical corrections to Chapter 03.03 of the Spokane Municipal Code, amending Section 03.03.010 of the Spokane Municipal Code, making technical corrections to Section 03.03.050 of the Spokane Municipal Code and adding a new section 03.03.070 to the Spokane Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, recognizing the cultural diversity of our community enriches the social fabric and promotes a comprehensive understanding and appreciation among its members; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. was a pivotal figure in the American civil rights movement and known for compassionate and insightful statements on civil rights, racial equality, and non-violence as a form of civil protest; and

WHEREAS, “Martin Luther King Jr. Day” was officially adopted by the United States Congress in 1983 and first observed at the federal level on January 20, 1986; and is a day of service and celebrates the life, legacy, and achievements of the civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year, a significant celebration for many Asian communities, marks the beginning of the lunar calendar and is a time of festivity and family reunions, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and contributions of these communities to our society; and

WHEREAS, since its celebrated return in 2022 after an 87-year hiatus, the Lunar New Year festival has rapidly grown in popularity in Spokane, drawing significant participation from the community and demonstrating the vibrant cultural heritage and traditions of the Asian communities within the city; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, serves as a historical milestone that promotes reflection, education, and celebration of freedom and justice for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the significance of Juneteenth as a pivotal moment in American history, the United States Congress has officially designated June 19th as a federal holiday, further affirming its national importance and acknowledging the

ongoing pursuit of equality and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally/internationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States;

WHEREAS, both Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth are recognized as official state holidays by the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Spokane wish to formally establish Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year, and Juneteenth as official holidays of the City of Spokane,

**NOW THEREFORE**, the City of Spokane does ordain:

**Section 1.** Section 03.03.010 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended as follows:

**Section 03.03.010 Legal Holidays Specified**

Commencing January 1, 2025, ((The)) the following days each year are legal holidays during which all offices, including municipal court, are closed to the transaction of business, except ((the)) essential ((departments)) operations:

A. The first day of January, commonly called “New Year’s Day.”

B. The day corresponding to the first day of the first lunar month, commonly known as “Lunar New Year”, which may vary each year.

C. The third Monday of February, commonly called “Martin Luther King. Jr. Day.”

~~((B))~~ D. The last Monday of May, commonly known as “Memorial Day.”

E. The nineteenth of June, commonly called “Juneteenth.”

~~((C))~~ F. The fourth day of July, commonly known as “Independence Day,”.

~~((D))~~ G. The first Monday in September, commonly known as “Labor Day”.

~~((E))~~ H. The fourth Thursday of November, commonly known as “Thanksgiving Day”.

~~((F))~~ I. The Friday following Thanksgiving Day; and

((G)) J. The twenty-fifth day of December, commonly known as “Christmas Day”.

**Section 2.** Section 03.03.050 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended as follows:

**Section 03.03.050 Non-uniformed Employees**

For non-uniformed employees on a work schedule other than Monday through Friday, the following holiday policy applies:

- A. When a holiday observed by the City falls on an employee’s first day of rest, the preceding day is recognized as ~~((his))~~ that employee’s holiday.
- B. When a holiday observed by the City falls on an employee’s second day of rest, the following day is recognized as ~~((his))~~ that employee’s holiday.
- C. If an employee is required to work on ~~((his))~~ a holiday as outlined in subsections (A) and (B) of this section due to essential operations, ~~((he))~~ that employee is compensated at one and one-half times ~~((his))~~ the employee’s hourly rate ~~((in addition to straight-time pay))~~ or as otherwise set forth pursuant to that employee’s collective bargaining agreement.

**Section 3.** There is added to Chapter 03.03 of the Spokane Municipal Code a new Section 03.03.070 to read as follows:

**Section 03.03.070 Essential Operations**

For purposes of this Chapter 03.03, the term “essential operations” shall mean:

- A. The Police Division;
- B. The Fire Division; and
- C. Any city department, division, or function designated as an “essential operation” by the Mayor.

**Section 4.** Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the

validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance.

**Section 5. Clerical Errors.** Upon approval by the city attorney, the city clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including scrivener's errors or clerical mistakes; references to other local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations; or numbering or referencing of ordinances or their sections and subsections.

PASSED by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

Attest

Approved as to Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date