



SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL
Policy Advisor Memorandum

TO: Council Members
FROM: Brian McClatchey, Policy Advisor
DATE: November 25, 2019
RE: Summary of proposed residential tenancies code

This memorandum summarizes the proposed provisions of a local residential tenancies code. This proposal, and all the prior iterations of it, have been the subject of numerous meetings with landlords and tenants. As well, the housing quality provisions are intended to implement the recommendations of the 2016 report of the Mayor's Housing Quality Task Force.

1. Rental agreement regulations.

The proposed ordinance establishes some local regulations on rental agreements, for example, by prohibiting waivers of mandatory terms in rental agreements unless the waiver is clearly identified in a separate document as a waiver.

The proposed ordinance deals with deposits and pre-payment of last months' rent by requiring such payments or deposits to be authorized by a written rental agreement which identifies the amount of such required payment. Under the proposal, landlords can still impose cleaning fees, but they would be prohibited from taking an amount of money over the amount of the cleaning fee out of a deposit.

Pet deposits would be limited to 25% of one months' rent or \$150, whichever is higher, and landlords would not be able to charge a pet deposit for service animals, though they still would be able to recover for damage to a rental unit caused by a service animal. And overall, the proposal would cap the total deposits (defined as refundable payments) which can be required to an amount equal to one months' rent. Total fees (defined as one-time, non-refundable payments) would be capped at 25% of one months' rent, including a limitation on the amount a tenant can be charged for a screening report fee to 10% of one months' rent.

Beginning on January 1, 2020, landlords will be required to provide 90 days' written notice to tenants of any rent increase.

2. Rental Relocation Assistance Program.

The proposed ordinance creates and funds a rental relocation assistance program. If a tenant has to move due to a 'do not occupy' order caused by conditions caused by the

landlord, or due to rent increases which make the tenant unable to afford the rent, the landlord must pay \$2,000, and refund all deposits and pre-paid rent within 7 days of receiving notice from the City that the property is not to be occupied. This will help low-income tenants move to habitable and affordable housing. If the landlord does not make the payment to the tenant within 7 days, the City can advance those funds to the tenant. The City can then seek repayment from the landlord, including penalties and interest if the repayment does not occur within 60 days. Relocation assistance payments are not required if the uninhabitable condition is caused by a natural disaster or the tenant's conduct.

3. Enforcement, Prohibitions, and Fines.

The proposed ordinance contains specific and fair enforcement provisions, among them being a private right of action for tenants to bring suit in the Superior Court. There is a limitation on this, which is that tenants are limited to the choice of recovery from one entity (*i.e.*, can sue under local code but not both state and local code).

The proposed ordinance prohibits retaliation and interfering with or prohibiting tenant organizing activities, and creates a rebuttable presumption of retaliation where any negative action is taken within 90 days of a complaint.

The proposed ordinance also establishes serious and fair monetary penalties, including for housing discrimination, such as \$10,000 fines for retaliation and housing discrimination, an escalating penalty schedule of up to \$10,000 in fines for repeat violators, and a penalty (to match that established in state law) of 4.5 times the monthly rental amount for violations of the prohibition on discrimination based on the source of income. The proposed ordinance also makes clear that compliance is the goal to be sought before enforcement actions can be taken. Other violations, such as failure to repair defective conditions, failure to keep adequate records (for example, inspection reports), and falsifying records are all Class 1 civil infractions.

4. Housing Quality Standards.

The proposed ordinance establishes housing quality standards for all rental units in Spokane, with some exceptions, such as owner-occupied units which is the only unit rented by the owner, vacation rentals offered for rent no more than 3 months per year, hotels, motels, B&Bs, etc., health care facilities (like long-term care, group homes, hospitals, hospice, and nursing homes), religious facilities such as convents, monasteries or other facilities occupied exclusively by members of a religious order, emergency shelter or transitional housing, housing units for a major medical or educational institutions, and government or housing authority-owned units.

Housing units must have an inspection before being offered for rent in Spokane and a certificate of occupancy can suffice for that inspection for newer properties. The City does not inspect the property, so no additional city staffing is required, as the landlord is required to use a third-party inspector who is certified to the same level as under state law, and retain inspection reports or documents.

If a defective condition is apparent, the tenant can notify the City, which will then notify the landlord of the potential existence of a defective condition within 5 days. The landlord must fix any defective condition within 30 days of getting notice from the City (or longer period if city negotiates that longer period). When repairs are completed, the landlord notifies city of the completion of the repairs, and the City can then choose to inspect the work itself.

This proposal does not impose new substantive standards, but relies on the existing building and conservation code in the Spokane Municipal Code.

5. Other Proposals.

There are a number of other smaller changes in the proposals, such as a requirement that the City create and distribute an information packet including change of address forms, a landlord-tenant law summary, and voter registration forms. The proposal also authorizes an incentive program for landlords with zero code violations starting 1/1/2021 and a microloan program for all tenant rental and security deposits (not just displaced tenants). It also adds “real estate transactions” and “real estate related transactions” to the scope of the City’s existing anti-discrimination law.

6. Business Registration Requirement.

Business registration will now be required for owners of residential rental property which is offered for rent in Spokane. Each “place of business” must be registered, which means that each single-family rental home, and each apartment building or multiple-family unit building must have its own registration. Owners of residential real property offered for rent in Spokane will be required to pay the standard business license fee plus a \$10 fee for each housing unit offered for rent. That additional \$10 fee will be used to fund the rental relocation assistance program.

ORDINANCE NO. C-_____

An ordinance establishing a local residential tenancy code; enacting a new Title 19; enacting new sections 07.08.153 and 18.03.030; amending sections 08.01.090, 08.01.120, 08.01.180, 08.01.200, 08.02.0206, and 18.01.030 of the Spokane Municipal Code; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the rate of vacancies for rental properties in Spokane is currently at 3.3%, its lowest level in a decade and below 5%, which is normally considered a sign of a healthy rental market and which the Spokane market has not attained since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the average rent for is now over \$1,000 per month, the highest level in at least a decade, having risen by 74% since 2010; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50% of renters in Spokane are cost-burdened, meaning they spend 30% or more of their income on housing each month

WHEREAS, almost a quarter of renters in Spokane are severely cost-burdened, meaning they spend half or more of their income on housing each month; and

WHEREAS, the median household income is climbing, but the median income for renter households remains below the median – for example, in 2017, the median household income in Spokane was \$46,543, but the median income for renting households was \$33,812 – and while the average rent in Spokane has increased by 74% since 2010, the median renting household’s income over that same period only increased by 51%; and

WHEREAS, lower-income people who are cost-burdened or severely cost-burdened are at a much higher risk of eviction and therefore, of homelessness, particularly if they report substandard conditions or unfair housing practices; and

WHEREAS, research from the Washington State Department of Commerce and data from our own CHHS Department’s point-in-time count reveal that lack of affordable housing and eviction from housing are two significant drivers of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the number of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in Spokane is now at a decade high, confirming the observations from around the state that as rents increase, homelessness does as well; and

WHEREAS, one way to lower the rate of homelessness in our community is to keep housed people housed if at all possible, and one way to do this is to reduce the number of evictions in Spokane, which currently stands at 4 households each and every week, according to data compiled by the Eviction Lab at Princeton University; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane City Council, in view of these facts, sees that a housing emergency is underway in Spokane, and likely has been for the past few years, and that this emergency poses a danger to the health, welfare, and safety of many people of lower incomes throughout Spokane and necessitates the enactment of this ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That chapter 10.52 of the Spokane Municipal Code is renumbered as chapter 19.03 of the Spokane Municipal Code.

Section 2. That there is enacted a new Title 19 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Title 19 Residential Tenancy Code
Chapter 19.01 General Provisions
Section 19.01.010 Purpose and Intent

- A. The City Council finds that the enactment of local residential tenancy code is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- B. It is the intent of this Title 19 to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public by instituting regulations on the rental of most dwelling units in Spokane.

Section 19.01.020 Definitions

For purposes of this Title 19, the following terms are defined as follows:

- A. “Accessory dwelling unit” has the same meaning as set forth in SMC 17A.020.010(D).
- B. “Common areas” means areas on a property that are accessible by all tenants of the property including but not limited to: hallways; lobbies; laundry rooms; and common kitchens, parking areas, or recreation areas.
- C. “Department” means the City of Spokane’s code enforcement department.
- D. “Deposit” means any payment, charge, or deposit of money paid to the landlord by the tenant at the beginning of the tenancy as a deposit and security for the purpose of:
 - 1. Repairing damage to the premises, exclusive of ordinary wear and tear, caused by the tenant, or a guest or licensee of the tenant, or a pet of the tenant;
 - 2. Compensating the landlord for the tenant’s breach of the tenant’s duties prescribed in the rental agreement to restore, replace, or return personal property or appurtenances; or

3. Compensating the landlord for the tenant's failure to return keys to the premises, except that a landlord shall not retain any portion of the deposit for keys for lock mechanisms that must be changed upon a change of tenancy.
- E. "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.18.030(9).
- F. "Fee" means a one-time, non-refundable payment made by the tenant to the landlord to reimburse the landlord for a specific expense, including, without limitation, screening reports, background checks, credit reports, or to pay for the cleaning of the dwelling unit upon termination of the tenancy.
- G. "Landlord" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.18.030(14).
- H. "Last month's rent" means money that is paid at the inception of the tenancy as rent for the last month of a residential tenancy.
- I. "Manufactured Home" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.20.030(6).
- J. "Mobile Home" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.20.030(8).
- K. "Month-to-month tenancy" means a residential tenancy of an indefinite period with monthly or other periodic rent reserved.
- L. "Owner" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.18.030(16).
- M. "Person" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 59.18.030(17).
- N. "Rent" means any payment or charge payable from the tenant to the landlord, usually periodically, for the residential use of any property, buildings, land, and equipment, including the basic rent charge, charge for parking facilities (whether called a fee or rent), and any other periodic charges by the landlord for other services connected with the residential use of property, but does not include utility charges that are based on usage and to which the tenant has agreed in a written rental agreement to pay.
- O. "Rental agreement" means an agreement which establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, rules, regulations, or any other provisions concerning the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit for compensation in the city of Spokane.
- P. "Rental Housing Registration" means a registration issued under chapter 19.02, SMC.
- Q. "Shelter" means a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, owned, operated, or managed by a nonprofit organization, religious organization or

governmental entity, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

- R. “Single-room occupancy housing” (S.R.O.) has the meaning set forth in SMC 17A.020.190(AU).
- S. “Substantial rehabilitation” means the renovation, alteration, or remodeling of a residential unit of 30 or more years of age which (i) has been condemned, (ii) does not qualify for a certificate of occupancy, or (iii) requires substantial renovation in order to be in compliance with contemporary standards for decent, safe and sanitary housing. Substantial rehabilitation may vary in degree from gutting and extensive reconstruction to extensive improvements that cure substantial deferred maintenance. Cosmetic improvements alone such as painting, decorating and minor repairs, or other work which can be performed safely without having the unit vacated do not qualify as substantial rehabilitation.
- T. “Tenant” means any person who is entitled to occupy a dwelling unit primarily for living or dwelling purposes under a rental agreement in the city of Spokane.
- U. “Transitional housing” means housing units owned, operated or managed by a nonprofit organization, religious organization or governmental entity in which supportive services are provided to individuals and families that were formerly homeless, with the intent to stabilize them and move them to permanent housing.
- V. “Unit unavailable for rent” means a housing unit that is not offered or available for rent as a rental unit, and where prior to offering or making the unit available as a rental housing unit, the owner is required to obtain a rental housing registration for the property where the rental housing unit is located and comply with all rules adopted under this chapter.

Section 19.01.030 Relationship with State Law; Construction; Severability.

- A. The provisions of this Title 19 are supplementary and in addition to any rights, obligations, protections, remedies, and requirements of the Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, chapter 59.18, RCW.
- B. This Title 19 shall be construed liberally and enforced for the benefit of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, and not for the benefit of any particular person or class of persons.
- C. No provision of or term used in this Title 19 is intended to impose any duty upon the City or any of its officers or employees that would subject them to damages in a civil action.
- D. Should any provision of this Title 19 be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void or unenforceable, such provision shall be severed from this Title 19, and the remainder of this Title 19 shall continue in effect.

Chapter 19.02 Residential Rental Agreements

Section 19.02.010 Rental Agreement Requirements

- A. A landlord shall not require the payment of last month's rent by a tenant unless such payment is required by a written rental agreement that specifies the amount of the last month's rent to be paid.
- B. Any rental agreement entered into after the effective date of this chapter shall describe the terms and conditions of any monthly or periodic payments required as a condition of tenancy, including but not limited to: rent, deposits, non-refundable fees, last month's rent, utility payments, late fees authorized by the rental agreement, or other monthly or periodic payments required to be made by the tenant to the landlord. When any monthly or periodic payment is made pursuant to the rental agreement, the landlord shall first apply the payment to the rent due before applying it to other payments due by the tenant to the landlord, except that if the payment is made in response to a notice issued pursuant to RCW 59.12.030 during the period of that notice, the landlord shall first apply the payment to the amount specified in that notice, before applying it to the rent due or to other payments due by the tenant to the landlord.
- C. A landlord shall not require the payment of a pet damage deposit unless the same is required by a written rental agreement, or an addendum to the written rental agreement, that specifies the amount of the pet damage deposit, and subject to the limits on the amount of such deposit stated in SMC 19.02.040.

Section 19.02.020 Distribution of Information Packets to Tenants Required

- A. The Department shall compile an information packet that includes:
 - 1. Summaries of the respective rights, obligations, and remedies of landlords and tenants thereunder as established in this chapter and in the Washington Residential Landlord Tenant Act; and
 - 2. Information describing how to register to vote and how to update voter registration, including a voter registration form and a change of address form.
- B. The Department shall make the information packet required by this section available on the city's website and in hard copy at no cost to the public.
- C. The information packet shall include informational documents only, and shall clearly state that nothing in the information packet shall be construed as binding on or affecting any judicial determination of the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, nor is the Department liable for any misstatement or misinterpretation of the applicable laws.

- D. A copy of the information packet described in this section shall be provided to each tenant or prospective tenant by or on behalf of a landlord when such rental agreement is offered, whether or not such agreement is for a new or renewal rental agreement. The landlord may provide the copy of the information packet to the tenant electronically, including by providing a link to the Department's web page that contains the information packet.
- E. If there is an oral rental agreement, the landlord shall provide the tenant a copy of the information packet described in this section either before entering into the oral agreement or as soon as reasonably possible after entering into the oral agreement.
- F. Landlords shall, within thirty (30) days after the Department makes the information packet available, distribute the information packet to existing tenants, including by electronic means set out in subsection D. The Department shall update the information packet periodically and shall notify landlords whenever it is updated.

Section 19.02.030 Notification Requirements for Rent Increases

Any rental agreement or renewal of a rental agreement for a dwelling unit in the city of Spokane entered into after January 1, 2020 shall include or be deemed to include a provision requiring a minimum of ninety (90) days' prior written notice whenever the periodic or monthly housing costs to be charged a tenant are to increase.

Section 19.02.040 Pet Damage Deposits

- A. A landlord shall not require payment of a pet damage deposit which exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the first full month's rent or \$150, whichever is higher. If rent is not paid or otherwise apportioned on a monthly basis then for the sole purpose of applying this limit the total rent shall be pro-rated on an equal, monthly basis and the total charge to a tenant for the pet damage deposit may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the pro-rated, monthly rental amount or \$150, whichever is higher.
- B. The landlord may not require a pet damage deposit if the pet serves as an individually trained service animal for the tenant. Nothing in this section prohibits a landlord from bringing an action for damages resulting from damage to the landlord's property caused by the tenant's service animal.
- C. The landlord cannot keep any portion of the pet damage deposit for damage that was not caused by a pet or service animal for which the tenant is responsible.
- D. Other than the pet damage deposit authorized by SMC 19.02.050(A), the landlord may not charge the tenant any fee for keeping a pet.

Section 19.02.050 Deposits and Fees; Limitation

- A. For rental agreements executed on or after the effective date of this chapter, the total amount of all deposits (including pet damage deposits) may not exceed the amount of a full month's rent for the dwelling unit. If rent is not paid or otherwise apportioned on a monthly basis, then for the sole purpose of applying this limit the total rent shall be pro-rated on an equal, monthly basis and the total charge to a tenant for the cost of a security deposit and nonrefundable move-in fees may not exceed the pro-rated, monthly rental amount.
- B. Restrictions on fees
1. Except for the fees, deposits, and last month's rent defined in this Title 19, landlords may not impose fees or charges upon tenants at the beginning of the tenancy.
 2. Pursuant to RCW 59.18.257, any fees charged to a prospective tenant by the landlord for the cost of obtaining a tenant screening report cannot exceed the actual cost of obtaining the report, which may not exceed the customary costs charged to the landlord by a tenant screening service in the city of Spokane. The landlord shall provide, personally or by mail, the prospective tenant with a receipt for any fees charged to the landlord for the cost of obtaining the screening report. The landlord shall provide the tenant with the name and address of the reporting agency and the prospective tenant's rights to obtain a free copy of the consumer report, pursuant to RCW 59.18.257.
 3. If the tenant has paid a cleaning fee at the inception of the tenancy, the landlord may not deduct additional cleaning fees from the tenant's security deposit at the conclusion of the tenancy, except for cleaning to remedy conditions beyond ordinary wear and tear.
 4. The total amount of fees may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the first full month's rent or \$150, whichever is higher, except that if the cost of a tenant screening report exceeds ten percent (10%) of the first full month's rent, the amount in excess of ten percent (10%) may be included in the non-refundable fee but may not exceed the customary costs charged by a screening service in the city of Spokane.
- C. No deposit may be collected or retained by a landlord unless the rental agreement is in writing and a written checklist or statement specifically describing the condition and cleanliness of or existing damages to the premises and furnishings is provided by the landlord to the tenant at the commencement of the tenancy. The checklist or statement shall be completed, signed, and dated by the landlord and the tenant, and the landlord shall provide to the tenant a copy of the signed checklist or statement.

- D. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a landlord from bringing an action against a tenant to recover sums exceeding the amount of the tenant's security deposit for damage to the dwelling unit for which the tenant is responsible.
- E. This section does not apply to a tenant who rents a housing unit in a single-family residence that is the principal residence of the owner of the residence.

**Section 19.02.060 Rental Agreement Waiving Tenant’s Remedies Prohibited—
Exception.**

- A. No rental agreement, whether oral or written, may provide that the tenant waives or foregoes rights or remedies under this chapter, except as provided by subsection B.
- B. A landlord and tenant may agree, in writing, to waive specific requirements of this chapter if all of the following conditions have been met:
 - 1. The waiver of specific provisions is in writing and identifies the specific provisions to be waived;
 - 2. The waiver appears in a stand-alone document, does not appear in a standard form written lease or rental agreement, and is clearly titled “Waiver of Tenant’s Remedies”; and
 - 3. There is no substantial inequality in the bargaining positions of the parties.

Section 19.02.070 Provisions in Violation of this Chapter Void

Any provisions in a rental agreement that violate SMC 19.02.010 – 19.02.060 are null and void and of no lawful force and effect.

Section 19.02.080 Tenant Organizing Activity

It is a violation of this chapter to interfere with, retaliate against, or prohibit the activities of tenants to organize themselves or take concerted action to address rental housing conditions or advocate for tenants.

Section 19.02.090 Retaliation Prohibited

- A. It is a violation of this chapter for any person to retaliate against a tenant or prospective tenant because the tenant or prospective tenant exercised or attempted to exercise rights conferred by this chapter or made a complaint or a report to any governmental entity concerning any landlord’s or property manager’s alleged noncompliance with any provision of a code, statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation which governs the maintenance or operation of

rental housing. In addition to all the actions stated in RCW 59.18.240(2), for purpose of this section, “retaliation” includes:

1. Refusing to provide, accept, or approve a rental application or a rental agreement;
 2. Termination of tenancy, giving notice of termination of tenancy, or threatening to terminate the tenancy;
 3. Applying more onerous terms, conditions, or privileges, including increased rent, to a tenant or prospective tenant who exercises his or her rights under this chapter than to a tenant or prospective tenant who does not assert those rights;
 4. Misrepresenting any material fact when providing a rental reference about a tenant;
 5. Threatening to allege to a government agency that a tenant or prospective tenant, or a family member of a tenant or prospective tenant, is not lawfully in the United States; and
 6. During the period from the date that the City first notifies the property owner of conditions that violate applicable codes, statutes, ordinances, or regulations to the time that either (i) relocation assistance payments under SMC 19.02.200 are paid to eligible tenants, or (ii) the conditions leading to the notification are corrected:
 - a. Evicting, harassing, or intimidating tenants into vacating their units for the purpose of avoiding or diminishing application of SMC 19.02.200 (relocation assistance payments);
 - b. Reducing services to any tenant; or
 - c. Materially increasing or changing the obligations of any tenant, including but not limited to any rent increase.
- B. Any retaliatory action identified in SMC 19.02.090(A) and occurring within ninety (90) days of the date a tenant or prospective tenant first exercises rights conferred by this chapter is presumed to be retaliatory, and the presumption of retaliation may be rebutted by the production of clear and convincing evidence that the action was taken for a non-retaliatory purpose. Retaliatory actions alleged ninety (90) days or more after the date a tenant or prospective tenant first exercises rights conferred by this chapter may be established by a preponderance of evidence.

Section 19.02.100 Administration and Enforcement

- A. The department shall administer the provisions of this Title 19 and of SMC 18.03.030 and is authorized to adopt administrative rules and regulations consistent with this chapter. In the event of any conflict between such rules and this chapter, this chapter shall control.
- B. Enforcement of this chapter shall be by department action, as provided in SMC 19.02.110 (notices of violation; review; appeal), or by an aggrieved person, as provided in SMC 19.02.120 (private right of action).

- C. The department may seek legal or equitable relief at any time to enjoin any acts or practices that violate the provisions of this chapter.

Section 19.02.110 Notices of Violation; Review; Appeal

Except as provided in SMC 19.02.120 (private right of action; choice of remedies), notices of violation, review, and appeals concerning violations of this chapter shall be conducted pursuant to chapter 01.05, SMC (civil infraction system).

Section 19.02.120 Private Right of Action; Choice of Remedies

- A. Any person or class of persons injured as a result of a violation of this Title 19 or SMC 18.03.030 may bring a civil action in the Spokane County Superior Court against the landlord, property owner, property manager, or other person violating this Title 19 and, upon prevailing, may be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and such legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to remedy the violation and secure the compliance therewith, including, without limitation, rent refund or credit, reinstatement to tenancy, actual damages, damages for loss of the right to be free from discrimination in real estate transactions, injunctive or equitable relief, any other appropriate remedy set forth in the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), and assessment of civil penalties as set forth in SMC 19.02.130. An order may include the requirement for a report on the matter of compliance.
- B. Any person who is the subject of retaliation as defined in SMC 19.02.090 or SMC 19.03.040 may be awarded damages of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any action filed in the Spokane County Superior Court to remedy such violation, in addition to all other remedies described in this section.
- C. No person may secure relief from more than one governmental entity, agency, or tribunal for the same harm or injury arising from the same facts, circumstances, transaction, or incident.

Section 19.02.130 Civil Penalty

- A. In cases either decided by the department or brought by the City Attorney alleging unfair practices filed under this chapter, in addition to any other award of damages or grant of injunctive relief, a civil penalty may be assessed against the respondent to vindicate the public interest, which penalty shall be payable to the City of Spokane and deposited into the rental assistance fund established by SMC 07.08.153. Payment of a civil penalty may be ordered by the Spokane Superior Court in a proceeding filed under SMC 19.02.120.
- B. The civil penalty assessed under this section shall not exceed:

1. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) if the respondent has not been determined to have committed any prior unfair housing practice;
2. Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) if the respondent has been determined to have committed one (1) other unfair housing practice during the five (5) year period ending on the date of the filing of the complaint; or
3. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) if the respondent has been determined to have committed two (2) or more unfair housing practices during the five (5) year period ending on the date of the filing of the complaint.

Section 19.02.140 Defense in Commencing Action – Award of Fees and Costs

In any legal action commenced for unlawful detainer or to enforce a rental agreement, to impose penalties, or to forfeit a deposit contrary to rental agreement provisions of this Title 19, or pursuant to rental agreement provisions prohibited by this Title 19, it is a defense to such action that such provisions are in violation of this Title 19, and a tenant who prevails on such defense shall be awarded reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Section 19.02.200 Relocation Assistance

- A. Within seven (7) calendar days of the occurrence of either of the following, the landlord shall pay relocation assistance in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each tenant household directly impacted:
 1. the landlord's receipt of notice that a dwelling unit for which the landlord is responsible is unlawful to occupy due to the existence of a condition(s) that violate applicable codes, statutes, ordinances, or regulations, and the landlord knew or should have known of the existence of the condition(s) before receiving such notice; or
 2. the landlord's receipt of notice from a tenant occupying a rental dwelling unit for which the landlord has notified the tenant that the rental amount to charged is to increase by more than 5% in any calendar year and the tenant provides written notice that they are rent burdened as defined in SMC 19.01.010 and must vacate due to the increased rental amount. A landlord so notified is entitled to obtain all household income information from the tenant and file a written appeal to the Hearing Examiner if the Landlord believes that the tenant does not meet the definition of rent burdened.
- B. In addition to relocation assistance, the property owner shall pay to the displaced tenants the entire amount of any deposit prepaid by the tenant and all prepaid rent.
- C. The property owner shall make relocation assistance payments and any prepaid deposit and prepaid rent as required by this section either by certified check to

the displaced tenant(s) or to the City of Spokane for distribution to the displaced tenant(s).

- D. A property owner shall not be required to pay the relocation assistance required by this section if the dwelling unit is or will be unlawful to occupy, and this condition:
 - 1. was directly caused by a tenant's or a third party's conduct; or
 - 2. resulted from conditions arising from a natural disaster.
- E. If the landlord fails to pay relocation assistance as required by SMC 19.02.200(A), the City may make the relocation assistance payments to the displaced tenants from the Rental Assistance Fund established by SMC 07.08.153 and seek reimbursement from the landlord pursuant to subsection (G) of this section.
- F. If, starting sixty (60) days from the date that the City first made a relocation assistance payment to a displaced tenant, a property owner has failed to reimburse the City in the amount of relocation assistance advanced to such tenant, the City may assess civil penalties in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per tenant per day such payment remains unreimbursed. In addition to this penalty, the City may impose interest on the amount of relocation assistance paid by the City for which the property owner has not reimbursed the City, at the maximum legal rate of interest permitted under RCW 19.52.020, starting sixty (60) days after the date that the City first advanced relocation assistance funds to the displaced tenant(s).
- G. If the City must initiate legal action in order to recover the amount of relocation assistance payments that it has advanced to a displaced tenant(s), including any interest and penalties under SMC 19.02.200(F), the City shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs arising from its legal action, pursuant to RCW 59.18.085(3)(h).

Chapter 19.03 Housing Quality

Section 19.03.010 Purpose; Intent

- A. The purpose of this code is to protect the health, welfare, and safety of tenants in rental housing in the city of Spokane.
- B. This chapter is intended to secure the rights of tenants in Spokane to have safe, secure, affordable, and well-maintained housing.
- C. The City of Spokane enacts this chapter to implement the recommendations of the Mayor's Housing Quality Task Force, as stated in its November 22, 2016 report, that the City of Spokane "should define and establish a minimum housing quality standard."

Section 19.03.020 Applicability and exclusions

This chapter is inapplicable to the following types of dwelling units:

- A. Dwelling units owned by an individual natural person or family and which are the sole dwelling unit such individual or family makes available for rent in the city of Spokane;
- B. Housing units lawfully used as vacation rentals for periods not to exceed three (3) consecutive months and not consecutively used by the same individual or individuals for more than three (3) months in any twelve-month period;
- C. Housing units rented for not more than twelve (12) consecutive months as a result of the property owner, who previously occupied the unit as a primary residence, taking a work-related leave of absence or assignment such as an academic sabbatical or temporary transfer;
- D. Housing units that are not available for rent;
- E. Housing units in hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, or in similar accommodations that provide lodging for transient guests;
- F. Housing units in facilities licensed or required to be licensed under RCW 18.20, RCW 70.128, or RCW 72.36, or subject to another exemption under this Chapter;
- G. Housing units in any state licensed hospital, hospice, community-care facility, intermediate-care facility, or nursing home;
- H. Housing units in any convent, monastery, or other facility occupied exclusively by members of a religious order or congregation;
- I. Emergency or temporary-shelter or transitional housing accommodations;
- J. Housing units owned, operated, or managed by a major educational or medical institution or by a third party for the institution; and
- K. Housing units that a government entity or housing authority owns, operates or manages; or units exempted from municipal regulation by federal, state, or local law.

Section 19.03.030 Complaints

A tenant who observes an item or condition which the tenant believes is in violation of the City of Spokane's building and conservation code standards, as specified in Chapter 17F.070, SMC, may file a written complaint to the City's code enforcement department (the "Department"). Upon receipt of such a complaint, the department shall provide

notice of the complaint and the substance thereof to the landlord and proceed under the process described in SMC 17F.070.420 – 17F.070.490.

Section 19.03.040 Retaliation Prohibited

- A. It shall be a violation of this chapter for any landlord to retaliate in any way against any tenant or any member of the tenant’s family or a guest of the tenant who is on the premises lawfully and in compliance with the terms of a valid lease or rental agreement, in response to a complaint filed under SMC 19.03.030.
- B. Actions to change the terms or conditions of the tenancy, termination of the tenancy, or threats to terminate the tenancy shall be deemed per se retaliation under this section if done within ninety (90) days of the filing of a complaint under SMC 19.03.030.

Section 19.03.050 Compliance Focus

- A. The Department shall, in administering and enforcing the requirements of this chapter, endeavor first to assist property owners in efforts to come into compliance with this chapter.
- B. Only when all reasonable efforts to achieve compliance with this chapter have failed will the Department and code official proceed to enforcement actions.

Section 19.03.060 Penalties for Non-Compliance; Escalation

- A. Violation of this chapter is a class 1 civil infraction.
- B. Failure to repair defective items or conditions as provided in SMC 17F.075.030 within ninety (90) days of the notice provided by the Department or other time period mutually agreed upon between the property owner and the Department is a class 1 civil infraction. For purposes of this section, each defective condition which the landlord fails to repair shall be considered a separate infraction.
- C. Failure to keep all required records of inspections under SMC 17F.075.020 is a class 1 civil infraction.
- D. Knowingly submitting or assisting in the submission falsified information regarding the inspections required by SMC 19.03.020 is a Class 1 civil infraction and may subject the person submitting or assisting in the submission of such false information to criminal liability under RCW 59.18.125(10).

Section 19.03.070 Incentive Programs Authorized

Beginning on January 1, 2021, the Department is authorized to create and administer a set of incentives for landlords who have had zero code violations from the effective date of this section to that date.

Section 19.03.080 Microloan program authorized

The Department is authorized to create and administer a program for microloans to assist tenants with rental and security deposits.

Section 19.03.090 Inspections

Before it can be offered for rent in Spokane, each dwelling unit offered for rent in Spokane after January 1, 2020 must either (i) have been inspected by a home inspector licensed in the state of Washington under RCW 18.280.020, or (ii) have received a certificate of occupancy in the five (5) years prior to being offered for rent. For purposes of this section, “first offered for rent” means that the unit has not previously been offered for rent within the immediately preceding two years.

Section 3. That there is enacted a new section 07.08.153 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 07.08.153 Rental Assistance Fund

- A. There is established as a special revenue fund a rental assistance fund, the proceeds of which shall be used (i) to reimburse tenants who must relocate due to the termination of their tenancy through no fault of their own, and (ii) for landlord and tenant education and materials publication costs.
- B. The annual business registration fees received from those who rent real property in Spokane, any fines or penalties associated with violations of the rental housing code, and any attorneys’ fees recovered by the City pursuant to SMC 19.02.200(G), shall be deposited in the rental assistance fund.

Section 4. That section 08.01.090 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 08.01.090 Exemptions

Unless otherwise provided, the following exemptions apply to the requirement to obtain a general business registration under this chapter:

- A. Presenters of a show, such as a trade show, that is directly associated with or ancillary to a convention or a major national meeting, when entry is limited to those attending the convention or meeting and the immediate family or associates of the conventioners.
- B. Consumer Show Exhibitors.
Consumer show organizers remain responsible to purchase a regular business registration unless otherwise exempted.

- C. Persons or entities otherwise subject to the requirement to obtain a business registration, but only to the extent such requirement arises from operating at locations operated or managed by an airport board pursuant to interlocal agreement arising under the authority of chapter 14.08 RCW, where such locations have been annexed to the city, said annexation taking effect on or after January 1, 2012; and
- D. Where preempted by the federal or state constitution or laws.
- E. Operators of market gardens under chapter 17C.380 SMC.
- F. Owners of the following types of residential dwelling units:
 - 1. Dwelling units owned by an individual natural person or family and which are the sole dwelling unit such individual or family makes available for rent in the city of Spokane;
 - 2. Housing units lawfully used as vacation rentals for periods not to exceed three (3) consecutive months and not consecutively used by the same individual or individuals for more than three (3) months in any twelve-month period;
 - 3. Housing units rented for not more than twelve (12) consecutive months as a result of the property owner, who previously occupied the unit as a primary residence, taking a work-related leave of absence or assignment such as an academic sabbatical or temporary transfer;
 - 4. Housing units that are not available for rent;
 - 5. Housing units in hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, or in similar accommodations that provide lodging for transient guests;
 - 6. Housing units in facilities licensed or required to be licensed under RCW 18.20, RCW 70.128, or RCW 72.36, or subject to another exemption under this Chapter;
 - 7. Housing units in any state licensed hospital, hospice, community-care facility, intermediate-care facility, or nursing home;
 - 8. Housing units in any convent, monastery, or other facility occupied exclusively by members of a religious order or congregation;
 - 9. Emergency or temporary-shelter or transitional housing accommodations;
 - 10. Housing units owned, operated, or managed by a major educational or medical institution or by a third party for the institution; and

11. Housing units that a government entity or housing authority owns, operates or manages; or units exempted from municipal regulation by federal, state, or local law.

Section 5. That section 08.01.120 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 08.01.120 Registration – Application

- A. The application for a registration shall be made on forms which set forth the:
1. name of the applicant,
 2. applicant's residence,
 3. place of business,
 4. nature of the business,
 5. number of personnel, and
 6. amount of the registration fee.
- B. Applicants whose circumstances fall under the definition of SMC 10.40.010 must further disclose information as required in SMC 10.40.030.
- C. For purposes of the registration of businesses which rent residential dwelling units, persons or entities owning multiple dwelling units shall file a single registration for each person or entity which lists the number of units owned by that person or entity. By way of illustration only, a person who owns one single-family rental property in Spokane would file one business registration listing one property, while a LLC which owns a 20-unit apartment building would file one registration which lists 20 units.

Section 6. That section 08.01.180 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 08.01.180 Computation of Business Registration Fee

- A. As fixed in SMC 8.02.0206, in addition to the basic registration fee, the total business registration fee due includes a per person fee amount applied to the total number of personnel of the business and, for owners of residential real property offered for rent in Spokane, a per-dwelling unit amount is applied to the total number of dwelling units offered for rent.
- B. All persons employed at each business location as of the time of a business registration renewal are to be counted in the number of personnel for registration fee purposes. As appropriate, such as in the case of a business with seasonal fluctuations in the work force, the number of personnel by which the fee is measured is the number shown upon the business payroll for each of the payroll

periods during that year, added together and divided by the number of payroll periods.

- C. In the case of a new business, the fee for the initial business registration is based upon the registrant's estimated number of personnel.
- D. For the per-dwelling unit fee, any dwelling unit offered for rent or actually rented for at least thirty (30) days in any calendar year is included within the number of dwelling units owned by the registrant.

Section 7. That section 08.01.200 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 08.01.200 Businesses Within City

Businesses with a permanent location within the City must obtain a business registration. The measure of the fee is determined in part based upon the number of personnel who perform any part of their duties within the City and, for lessors of residential dwelling units, the number of such dwelling units owned by the registrant within Spokane.

Section 8. That section 08.02.0206 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 08.02.0206 Business Registration

- A. A regular business registration basic fee is one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per twelve-month period.
- B. The basic fee for a nonresident business registration is one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per twelve-month period.
- C. In addition to the basic registration fee, each business must pay ~~((an))~~ fees per license year, as follows (all personnel of a business are charged the same amount corresponding to the respective category of the total number of personnel defined below):
 - 1. Businesses with fewer than six personnel in total: Ten dollars per person.
 - 2. Businesses with six to ten personnel in total: Fifteen dollars per person.
 - 3. Businesses with more than ten personnel in total: Twenty dollars per person.
 - 4. Businesses offering dwelling units for rent in the city of Spokane: ten dollars (\$10.00) per dwelling unit.
- D. Whenever there is a change of ownership, the holder of the registration must notify the Washington State business licensing service within thirty (30) days of such event. The new owner must file an application with the Washington State

business licensing service to acquire a new registration, as provided in chapter 8.01 SMC.

- E. For businesses qualifying under SMC 08.01.190(A) (low gross income businesses) for a reduced registration fee, the reduced business registration fee is one-half the basic registration fee, but all applicable personnel, inspection, per-dwelling unit, or other applicable fees or charges apply in full.
- F. For businesses qualifying under SMC 08.01.190(B) (nonprofit organizations) for a reduced registration fee, the reduced business registration fee is one-half the basic registration fee. Nonprofit businesses are exempt from personnel fees and per-dwelling unit fees.
- G. For businesses qualifying under SMC 08.01.190(C) (social purpose corporations) for a reduced registration fee, the reduced business registration fee is one-half the basic registration fee.
- H. For businesses qualifying under SMC 08.01.190(D) (Certified B Corporations) for a reduced registration fee, the reduced business registration fee is one-half the basic registration fee.
- I. Any Certified B Corporation certified by B Lab is exempt from personnel fees and per residential unit fees.

Annual Fee Adjustment.

Effective January 1, 2011, and the first of January of each year thereafter, the business registration fees set forth in this section shall be adjusted by the Chief Financial Officer by an amount equal to the consumer price index adjustment of the previous July – July U.S. All City Average (CPI-U and CPI-W). The newly determined amount shall be rounded up to the nearest dollar. In addition, the adjusted fees shall be presented to the City Council for approval and a copy of the approved fees filed with the Chief Financial Officer before becoming effective. The annual fee adjustment provided for in this section shall not apply to the personnel fee stated in SMC 08.02.0206(C).

Section 9. That section 18.01.030 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 18.01.030 Definitions

- A. "Commission" means the Spokane Human Rights Commission.
- B. "Data management protocols" means the procedures governing how data collected by surveillance equipment will be retained, stored, indexed and accessed. Information comprising data management protocols includes, at a minimum, the information required in SMC 18.04.020.

- C. “Disability” means the presence of a sensory, mental, or physical impairment that, whether temporary or permanent, common or uncommon, mitigated or unmitigated, a limitation or not on the ability to work generally or work at a particular job, or a limitation or not on the ability to engage in any other activity within the scope of this Title 18:
1. is medically cognizable or diagnosable; or
 2. exists as a record or history; or
 3. is perceived to exist whether or not it exists in fact.
 4. For the purposes of reasonable accommodation in employment, an impairment must be known or shown through an interactive process to exist in fact and:
 - a. The impairment must have a substantially limiting effect upon the individual’s ability to perform his or her job, the individual’s ability to apply or be considered for a job, or the individual’s access to equal benefits, privileges, or terms or conditions of employment; or
 - b. The employee must have put the employer on notice of the existence of an impairment, and medical documentation must establish a reasonable likelihood that engaging in job functions without an accommodation would aggravate the impairment to the extent that it would create a substantially limiting effect.
 5. For purposes of this definition, a limitation is not substantial if it has only a trivial effect.
 6. For purposes of housing, a “reasonable accommodation” is an adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, including public and common use spaces, where there is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the requested accommodation and the person’s disability.
- D. “Discrimination” means different or unequal treatment because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, refugee status, disability, the use of a guide dog or service animal, or the use or eligibility for the use of housing choice or other subsidy program or alternative source of income. “Discriminate” means to treat differently or unequally because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, refugee status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or the Washington State Law Against Discrimination, or the use or eligibility for the use of housing choice or other subsidy program or alternative source of income. For purposes of this definition, it is discriminatory to fail to offer reasonable accommodation in housing or employment to an otherwise qualified applicant or employee with a disability, absent a showing that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship.

- E. “Dog guide” means a dog that is specifically trained for the purpose of guiding persons who are blind or a dog trained for the purpose of assisting persons with disabilities.
- F. “Domestic Violence Victim Status” means a family or household member, as defined in RCW 10.99.020 (3), who has been subjected to domestic violence as defined in RCW 10.99.020 (5) or who is a victim of sexual assault as defined in RCW 70.125.030.
- G. “Employee” means an individual who works for wages, salary or commission, or a combination thereof, in the service of an employer, but does not include a person employed by a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, spouse or child. The term includes an individual who is seeking or applying for employment. This definition does not include independent contractors.
- H. “Employer” means any person acting in the interest of an employer, directly or indirectly, who employs employees within the City, or who solicits individuals within the City to apply for employment within the City, including the City of Spokane and all its boards, commissions and authorities.
- I. “Entities under common ownership” means two or more legal entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and the like which are: owned by the same person(s); in which the same person(s) serve as officers and/or directors; or the majority of one of which is owned by one or more of the others. For example, if a single person owns controlling interests in several limited liability companies, all of those limited liability companies are entities under common ownership.
- J. “Family with children status” means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of eighteen years being domiciled with a parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or individuals, or with the designee of such parent or other person having such legal custody, with the written permission of such parent or other person. Families with children status also applies to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years.
- K. “Federally-recognized tribe” means an entity listed on the Department of the Interior's list under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, which the Secretary currently acknowledges as an Indian tribe and with which the United States maintains a government-to-government relationship.
- L. “Gender Identity” means having or being perceived as having a gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression, whether or not that gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth.
- M. “Housing choice or other subsidy program((or alternative source of income))” means, without limitation: (i) any short or long term federal, state or local government, private nonprofit, or other assistance program in which a tenant's rent is paid either partially by the program (through a direct arrangement between the program and the owner or lessor of the real property), and partially by the tenant or completely by the program; or (ii) HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) funds, and short-term rental assistance provided by Rapid Rehousing subsidies.

- N. "Impairment" includes, without limitation, any:
1. physiological disorder, or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, including speech organs, cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitor-urinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin and endocrine; or
 2. mental, developmental, traumatic, or psychological disorder, including but not limited to cognitive limitation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.
- O. "Income" means lawful, verifiable income derived from all sources, including without limitation wages, salaries or other compensation for employment; Social Security benefits; supplemental security income; unemployment benefits; retirement programs; child support; payments from the Aged, Blind or Disabled Cash Assistance Program; Refugee Cash Assistance; any federal, state, local government, private, or nonprofit-administered benefit program, including without limitation payments from any housing choice or other subsidy program as defined in this chapter; financial aid for college students; and per capita payments or distributions received from a federally-recognized tribe.
- P. "Labor organization" means an organization which is constituted for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or for dealing with an employer concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or for other mutual aid or protection in connection with an employer.
- Q. "Marital status" means the status of being married, single, separated, divorced or widowed.
- R. "National origin" includes ancestry.
- S. "Operational protocols" means the procedures governing how and when surveillance equipment may be used and by whom and includes, at a minimum, the information required in SMC 18.04.010.
- T. "Person" includes:
1. A natural individual, partnership, association, organization, corporation, cooperative, legal representative, trustee and receiver, and any group of persons acting in concert;
 2. an owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, agent or employee, of a person, whether consisting of one or more natural persons;
 3. entities under common ownership; and
 4. any political or civil subdivisions of the City and any agency or instrumentality of the City or of any political or civil subdivision thereof.

This definition does not include the federal government or any federally-recognized tribe.

- U. "Place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage or amusement" includes, but is not limited to, any place, licensed or unlicensed, kept for gain, hire or reward, or where charges are made for admission, service, occupancy, or use of any property or facilities, whether conducted for the entertainment, housing, or lodging of transient guests, or for the benefit, use, or accommodation of those

seeking health, recreation, or rest, or for the burial or other disposition of human remains, or for the sale of goods, merchandise, services, or personal property, or for the rendering of personal services, or for public conveyance or transportation on land, water or in the air, including the stations and terminals thereof and the garaging of vehicles, or where food or beverages of any kind are sold for consumption on the premises, or where public amusement, entertainment, sports, or recreation of any kind is offered with or without charge, or where medical service or care is made available, or where the public gathers, congregates, or assembles for amusement, recreation, or public purposes, or public halls, public elevators, and public washrooms of buildings and structures occupied by two or more tenants, or by the owner and one or more tenants, or any public library or educational institution, or schools of special instruction, or nursery schools, or day care centers or children's camps, provided that nothing contained in this definition shall be construed to include or apply to any institute, bona fide club, or place of accommodation, which is by its nature distinctly private, including fraternal organizations, though where public use is permitted that use shall be covered by this section; nor shall anything contained in this definition apply to any educational facility, columbarium, crematory, mausoleum, or cemetery operated or maintained by a bona fide religious or sectarian institution.

- V. "Profiling" means actions of the Spokane Police Department, its members, or officers commissioned by the Spokane Police Department to rely on actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, color, creed, age, citizenship status, immigration status, refugee status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socio-economic status, housing status, or membership in any protected class under federal, state or local law as the determinative factor in initiating law enforcement action against an individual, rather than an individual's behavior or other information or circumstances that links a person or persons to suspected unlawful activity.
- W. "Real estate transaction" means the sale, purchase, conveyance, exchange, rental, lease, sublease, assignment, transfer, or other disposition of real property.
- X. "Real estate-related transaction" means any of the following:
 - 1. The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance:
 - a. For purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining real property, or
 - b. Secured by real property; or
 - 2. The selling, brokering, or appraising of real property; or
 - 3. The insuring of real property, mortgages, or the issuance of insurance related to any real estate transaction.

~~(W-)~~Y. "Refugee status" means the status of a person who, under the provisions of 8 USC 1101(a)(42), is outside a country of that person's nationality or, in the

case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which that person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

~~((X-))~~Z. “Service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purposes of assisting or accommodating a person with a disability.

~~((Y-))~~AA. “Sex” means gender.

~~((Z-))~~AB. “Sexual orientation” means heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and gender expression or identity. As used in this definition, "gender expression or identity" means having or being perceived as having a gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression, whether or not that gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth.

~~((AA-))~~AC. “Surveillance equipment” means equipment capable of capturing or recording data, including images, videos, photographs or audio operated by or at the direction of a City department that may deliberately or inadvertently capture activities of individuals on public or private property, regardless of whether "masking" or other technology might be used to obscure or prevent the equipment from capturing certain views. “Surveillance equipment” includes drones or unmanned aircraft and any attached equipment used to collect data. “Surveillance equipment” does not include the following equipment which are in use by the City of Spokane as of March 1, 2017:

1. handheld or body-worn devices (e.g., “bodycams”) used by law enforcement;
2. cameras installed in or on a police vehicle (e.g., “dashcams”);
3. cameras installed in or on any City-owned vehicle, including without limitation fire trucks, emergency vehicles, utility vehicles and street maintenance vehicles, which are intended to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle;
4. cameras installed along a public right-of-way to record traffic patterns and/or traffic violations;
5. cameras intended to record activity inside or at the entrances to City buildings for security purposes; or
6. cameras installed to monitor and protect the physical integrity of City infrastructure, including without limitation fire stations and utility service facilities.

Section 10. That section 18.01.060 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 18.01.060 Penalty for Violation

- A. The commission of an act of discrimination as defined in this Title 18 is punishable as a Class 1 civil infraction pursuant to chapter 01.05, SMC.
- B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the commission of an act of discrimination based on source of income in the rental of a housing unit shall subject the person in violation to liability in a civil action of up to four and one-half (4.5) times the monthly rent of the housing unit at issue, in addition to court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

Section 11. That there is enacted a new section 18.01.090 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.01.090 Private right of action; choice of remedies

- A. Any person or class of persons that suffers injury as a result of a violation of SMC 18.03.010 may bring a civil action in the Spokane Municipal Court against the property owner, property manager, or other person violating such section and, upon prevailing, may be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and such legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to remedy the violation and secure the compliance therewith, including, without limitation, rent refund or credit, reinstatement to tenancy, actual damages, damages for loss of the right to be free from discrimination in real estate transactions, injunctive or equitable relief, any other appropriate remedy set forth in the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), and assessment of civil penalties as set forth in SMC 19.02.130. An order may include the requirement for a report on the matter of compliance.
- B. Any person who is the subject of retaliation as defined in SMC 18.01.040 may be awarded damages of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any action filed in the Spokane County Superior Court to remedy such violation, in addition to all other remedies described in this section.
- C. No person may secure relief from more than one governmental entity, agency, or tribunal for the same harm or injury arising from the same facts, circumstances, transaction, or incident.

Section 12. That there is enacted a new section 18.03.030 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.03.030 Prohibited Practices in Real Estate Related Transactions

It is unlawful for any person whose business includes engaging in real estate related transactions, to:

- A. Discriminate against any person, owner, prospective occupant, or occupant of real property in the granting, withholding, extending, making available,

modifying, or renewing, or in the rates, terms, conditions, or privileges of a real estate related transaction, or in the extension of services in connection therewith; or

- B. Discriminate by using any form of application for a real estate related transaction or making any record of inquiry in connection with applications for a real estate related transaction which expresses, directly or indirectly, an intent to discriminate unless required or authorized by local, state, or federal laws or agencies to prevent discrimination in real property; provided that, nothing in this provision shall prohibit any party to a credit transaction from requesting designation of marital status for the purpose of considering application of community property law to the individual case or from taking reasonable action thereon or from requesting information regarding age, parental status, or participation in a Section 8 or other subsidy program when such information is necessary to determine the applicant's ability to repay a loan.

Section 13. That an urgency and emergency exists such that the enactment of this ordinance is necessary for the protection of the public health, welfare, and safety, and that under Section 19(a) of the City Charter, this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by the affirmative vote of one more than a majority of the City Council.

PASSED by the City Council on _____.

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date