



City of Spokane—Media Release

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CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCES HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION *ORDINANCE WILL UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING POLICY*

Councilmember Karen Stratton has introduced a proposal that seeks to clarify and strengthen the already existing human rights policies in the City’s Municipal Code.

“This legislation will not only update what we have on the books, but expand protections to include all citizens of Spokane” explains Stratton, who worked with more than thirty different community groups and organizations over five months to craft the policy. “Those who have been denied housing because they hold vouchers or others who have been victims of discriminatory employment practice inspired me to act.”

The ordinance will collect all sections of the Spokane Municipal Code which currently exist in disparate locations under a single, unified title of the Spokane Municipal Code, a new Title 18. This will include protections against housing discrimination based on legal source of income, non-discrimination in employment practices, safeguards on the use of surveillance equipment, bias-free policing and protections for the homeless as well as persons with disabilities.

The City Council previewed some of the new Title 18 last month when it moved to unanimously pass the prohibition of religious registries ordinance. “The mission of local government is to protect all community members. This ordinance strengthens those protections and recommits our resources to creating a safer Spokane for everyone.” says Councilmember Beggs who is cosponsoring the legislation.

“Access to safe and affordable housing is a basic right and necessity for everyone in our community” said Councilmember Waldref, who also is cosponsoring the ordinance. “This legislation is an important step in that direction”.

The ordinance will also help connect those in need to human rights resources available in the community. “It’s important that we offer assistance to those in our community who need help to the tools and services they need” says Stratton. “If we truly are a Compassionate City, we need to be protecting all people, not just those in positions of privilege.”

About the City of Spokane The City of Spokane, home to more than 210,000 people, is located in the heart of the Inland Northwest. Our 2,000 employees strive to deliver efficient and effective services that facilitate economic opportunity and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. For more information, visit spokanecity.org and follow us @spokanecity on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).