Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Spokane County for Hearing Examiner Services

Renewed interlocal agreement with Spokane County.
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTING AN )
INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT )  RESOLUTION
BETWEEN SPOKANE COUNTY AND THE ) )
CITY OF SPOKANE FOR HEARING ) )
EXAMINER SERVICES )

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, (the “Board”) has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.34.080, Spokane County and the City of Spokane may contract with each other to perform any governmental service which each may legally perform; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County has a full-time Hearing Examiner to conduct hearings on land use matters involving County government, and the City of Spokane has a full-time Hearing Examiner to conduct hearings on land use and other regulatory matters involving City government; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County and the City of Spokane desire to make use of the other party’s Hearing Examiner to hear designated matters when the requesting party’s Hearing Examiner is absent, has a conflict of interest, or is unable to timely process matters; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County and the City of Spokane have each adopted ordinance that authorize their respective legislative bodies to appoint a Hearing Examiner pro-tem to perform the duties of the Hearing Examiner when such Hearing Examiner is absent, has a conflict of interest or other reason; and

WHEREAS, David W. Hubert is a County employee and currently serves as the Spokane County Hearing Examiner, and Brian McGinn is a City employee and currently serves as the City of Spokane Hearing Examiner and both Hearing Examiners are duly admitted members of the Washington State Bar Association and are knowledgeable on land use and other local government matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, that either the Chair of the Board, or a majority of the Board, be and is hereby authorized to execute that document entitled “INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPOKANE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SPOKANE FOR HEARING EXAMINER SERVICES” pursuant to which, under certain terms and conditions, Spokane County and the City of Spokane will make use of the other party’s Hearing Examiner from January 1, 2020, and continuing unless otherwise terminated, to hear designated administrative or quasi-judicial matters when the requested party’s Hearing Examiner
is absent, has a conflict of interest or is unable to timely process matters. The Parties agree to exchange such services on an in-kind basis or at a rate or sum as the Parties may mutually agree.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of January, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

AL FRENCH, Chair

JOSH KERNS, Vice Chair

Dinna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

MARY L. KUNCF, Commissioner
INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
SPOKANE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SPOKANE
FOR HEARING EXAMINER SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is between SPOKANE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Washington, as ("County"), and the CITY OF SPOKANE, a Washington municipal corporation, as ("City"); jointly referred to hereinafter as the "parties", and individually a "party".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 39.34.080, the County and the City may contract with each other to perform any governmental service which each may legally perform; and

WHEREAS, the County has a full-time Hearing Examiner to conduct quasi-judicial hearings on land use matters involving County government, and the City has a full-time Hearing Examiner to conduct administrative or quasi-judicial hearings on land use matters and other regulatory matters involving City government; and

WHEREAS, the City and County wish to make use of the other party's Hearing Examiner to hear designated administrative or quasi-judicial matters when the requesting party's Hearing Examiner is absent, has a conflict of interest, or is unable to timely process matters; and

WHEREAS, the City and County have each adopted ordinances that authorize their respective legislative bodies to appoint a Hearing Examiner pro-tem to perform the duties of the Hearing Examiner when such Hearing Examiner is absent, has a conflict of interest or other reason; and

WHEREAS, the City and County routinely employee as City and County employees Hearing Examiners who are duly admitted members of the Washington State Bar Association and are knowledgeable on land use and other local government matters;

-- In consideration of the above recitals and the terms specified below, County and City hereby agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE. This Agreement is to provide a mechanism whereby the County and the City can respectively use the services of the other party's Hearing Examiner pro-tem to conduct administrative and quasi-judicial hearings, as directed respectively by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County and the Spokane City Council.
2. **PAYMENT.** The County and the City may exchange Hearing Examiner services on an in-kind reciprocal basis. In the event that either party determines that the exchange of Hearing Examiner services between the parties is not reasonably equal in terms of hours of service, the parties may agree to pay for such services at a rate or sum as the parties may negotiate that reimburses the offering party for its costs including salary and benefits for the hearing examiner and administrative support. The party offering services under this Agreement shall submit an invoice for reimbursement to the party requesting services after such services have been rendered. Each Hearing Examiner shall keep a log of the number of hours worked, and nature of the work performed for each hearing item, regardless of whether services are being reimbursed on an in-kind or hourly basis. Each party shall report annually the number of hours of service of in-kind reciprocal Hearing Examiner services provided to the other party. The parties understand and acknowledge that their respective Hearing Examiners shall not be considered an employee, agent, or representative of the other party when performing services pursuant to this Agreement.

**Payment shall be made payable to Spokane County** and remitted to the Hearing Examiner, Third Floor, County Public Works Building, 1026 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99260-0245. **Payment shall be made payable to the City of Spokane** and remitted to the Office of the Hearing Examiner, Sixth Floor, City Hall, 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington, 99201.

3. **AGREEMENT NOT EXCLUSIVE.** The County’s Hearing Examiner is hereby appointed as a Hearing Examiner pro-tem for the City of Spokane and the City’s Hearing Examiner is hereby appointed as a Hearing Examiner pro-tem for Spokane County. This Agreement is not exclusive and each party may designate other Hearing Examiner pro-tems to hear similar matters as authorized by local ordinance or resolution.

4. **DURATION.** This Agreement shall begin January 1, 2020, and shall continue unless terminated sooner pursuant to Paragraph 9. The parties acknowledge that the availability of their respective Hearing Examiners is contingent upon the amount of work and the number of hearings which must be held by a party’s Hearing Examiner. Neither party guarantees that its respective Hearing Examiner will be available at all times requested by the other party.

5. **DECISIONS.** Each Hearing Examiner pro-tem shall comply with the requirements of federal, state and local law, relating to the matter being considered by the examiner, including the ordinances and resolutions of the party requesting services under this Agreement. If there is no applicable time period under statute or local ordinance or resolution for issuance of the Hearing Examiner’s decision, the examiner shall exercise his best efforts to render a written decision with findings and conclusions within thirty (30) calendar days of concluding the hearing. If the Hearing Examiner’s written decision is appealed, the Hearing Examiner shall review and certify the record from the hearing to the appropriate body after preparation of the record by the requesting party.

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.** The offering party shall supply its own necessary administrative support services for the requesting party’s hearing. The requesting party shall supply the hearing room, recording equipment, notifications, and copies of applicable regulations, policies, and reports. The offering party may use any of its own equipment as a matter of convenience or for accuracy. The offering party shall prepare and certify a transcript and/or copy of the record of any proceedings conducted by its Hearing Examiner, if required for an appeal; subject to reimbursement for the costs of preparing such documents from the appealing party as provided by law or ordinance. The offering party may consent to having the requesting party
produce such documents for certification, subject to reimbursement from the appealing party for the costs involved.

7. **AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATION.** No new or separate legal entity or administrative entity is formed by this Agreement. No property will be acquired, held or disposed of.

8. **INDEMNIFICATION.**

A. The County shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City, its officers and employees from all claims, demands, or suits in law or equity arising from the County's intentional or negligent acts or breach of its obligations under the Agreement. The County's duty to indemnify shall not apply to loss or liability caused by the intentional or negligent acts of the City, its officers and employees.

B. The City shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County, its officers and employees from all claims, demands, or suits in law or equity arising from the City's intentional or negligent acts or breach of its obligations under the Agreement. The City's duty to indemnify shall not apply to loss or liability caused by the intentional or negligent acts of the County, its officers and employees.

C. If the comparative negligence of the parties and their officers and employees is a cause of such damage or injury, the liability, loss, costs, or expense shall be shared between the parties in proportion to their relative degree of negligence and the right of indemnity shall apply to such proportion.

D. Where an officer or employee of a Party is acting under the direction and control of the other Party, the Party directing and controlling the officer or employee in the activity and/or omission giving rise to liability shall accept all liability for the other Party's officer or employee's negligence.

E. Each Party's duty to indemnify shall survive the termination or expiration of the Agreement.

F. Each Party waives, with respect to the other Party only, its immunity under RCW Title 51, Industrial Insurance. The parties have specifically negotiated this provision.

9. **TERMINATION.** Either party may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. If the Agreement is terminated, each party shall reimburse the other for any services performed pursuant to this Agreement which have not at the time of termination been paid for and which the parties have previously agreed is compensable work.

10. **VENUE.** This Agreement has and shall be construed as having been made and delivered in the State of Washington and the laws of the State of Washington shall be applicable to its construction and enforcement. Any action at law, suit in equity or judicial proceedings for the enforcement of this Agreement or any provision hereto shall be instituted only in the courts of competent jurisdiction within Spokane County, Washington.

11. **PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT.** The ownership of all property and equipment provided by either Party in each meeting its obligations under the terms of this Agreement shall remain with the original owner unless specifically and mutually agreed by the PARTIES to the contrary.
12. **LEGAL ADVICE.** The requesting party shall be responsible for providing legal advice to the offering party in conjunction with his performing Hearing Examiner Services under the terms of this Agreement.

13. **ALL WRITING AS CONTAINED HEREIN.** This Agreement contains all of the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this Agreement shall be deemed to exist or to bind the parties hereto, or posted on each of the parties' websites.

14. **RECORDING.** The City will file this Agreement with its City Clerk. The County shall file its Agreement with its County Auditor or place the Agreement on its WEB site.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the parties hereby execute the above Agreement:

ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington this 14th day of January 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chair

Vice-Chair

Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

Mary E. Kunerz, Commissioner

Date: 3/5/2020

CITY OF SPOKANE

By: Mayor

Title:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney