

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2025

CITY OF SPOKANE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

EO 2025-0003
LGL 2025-0018

TITLE: EXECUTIVE ORDER TO IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT THE *SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES* ORDINANCE AND TO DIVERT INDIVIDUALS FROM HOMELESSNESS WHO MAY BECOME HOUSING INSECURE AS A RESULT OF THE LOSS OF SNAP BENEFITS DUE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN, WHICH NECESSITATES THE EMERGENCY AWARD OF NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 2025
REVISION DATE IF APPLICABLE:

Factual Background Information and Findings to Support the Declaration of Emergency and the Execution of Contracts, Agreements, and Actions Necessary to Protect Public Health, Safety, and Welfare of Spokane Residents:

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane's H.O.M.E. Starts Here Initiative is an "all of the above" strategy for preventing and reducing homelessness through a targeted, comprehensive, and coordinated response that ultimately leads to housing stability; and

WHEREAS, under the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative, the City has stood up a daytime navigation center at 527 S Cannon Street (known as the Cannon Street Shelter), providing services including mental health care, addiction treatment, housing placement, employment services, access to primary care services, and referrals to nighttime shelter; and

WHEREAS, under the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative, the City's specialized referral-based emergency shelter system involves micro locations in partnership with local providers and faith-based organizations tailored to meet the diverse needs of those experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, under the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative, the City has established coordinated street outreach to work closely with the Spokane Police Department to refer and transport individuals to services, including the daytime navigation center seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane City Council adopted the "*Safe and Accessible Public Spaces*" emergency ordinance to immediately strengthen compliance requirements against unauthorized camping and obstruction of access to public property, while providing Spokane Police Officers an opportunity to offer services in place of enforcement to individuals who accept navigation and transportation to available

resources, including to the daytime navigation center and available treatment services; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 83,000 Spokane County residents rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for food and nutrition assistance, including thousands of seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities in the city of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the Trump Administration, has indicated that it will not fund the SNAP program beginning on November 1st because of the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the federal government to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will increase food, housing, and economic insecurity for thousands of families across the city of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, SMC 2.04.030(A) provides that:

Whenever a civil emergency, or the imminent threat thereof, occurs in the City and results in, or threatens to result in the death or injury of persons or the destruction of or damage to property to such extent as to require, in the judgment of the mayor, extraordinary and immediate measures to protect the public peace, safety and welfare, the mayor shall forthwith proclaim in writing the existence of a civil emergency, including in the proclamation a brief description of the facts constituting the civil emergency.

WHEREAS, there is a need to expedite the execution of eviction prevention assistance agreements to immediately divert individuals suffering from food insecurity from the homeless system as a result of the federal government shutdown and loss of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;

WHEREAS, there is an emergent need to enter into agreements necessary to provide additional shelter spaces to immediately and successfully implement the *Safe and Accessible Public Spaces* ordinance and in anticipation of housing insecurity as a result of the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.06.180 of the Spokane Municipal Code provides that if an emergency requires procurement prior to City Council action, the Mayor may declare an emergency and award necessary contracts or agreements to address the emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Brown is prepared to execute the appropriate and necessary contracts and agreements to provide the necessary services and additional shelter spaces to immediately implement the *Safe and Accessible Public Spaces* ordinance and to divert

individuals who may be facing food, housing, and economic insecurity as a result of the federal government shutdown.

NOW THEREFORE, LISA BROWN, MAYOR OF CITY OF SPOKANE, HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:

Section 1 – Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this Emergency Declaration is to execute the agreements necessary to:

1. Provide additional shelter space of up to fifty additional beds for one year;
2. Ensure connections to available services as intended by the *Safe and Accessible Public Spaces* ordinance; and
3. Divert individuals from the homeless system who may become housing insecure because of the loss of SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown by expediting the execution of eviction prevention agreements as recommended by the CHHS Human Services RFP Committee and funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Section 2 – Declaration of Emergency

Pursuant to SMC 2.04.030, a declaration of emergency is issued due to the necessity to:

1. Provide additional shelter space of up to fifty additional beds for one year;
2. Ensure connections to available services as intended by the *Safe and Accessible Public Spaces* ordinance; and
3. Divert individuals from the homeless system who may become housing insecure because of the loss of SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown by expediting the execution of eviction prevention agreements as recommended by the CHHS Human Services RFP Committee and funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Section 3 – Emergency Procurement.

Pursuant to SMC 7.06.180, the Mayor or her designate may make emergency procurements consistent with the provisions of Chapter 7.06 SMC and may execute such contracts and/or other agreements as are necessary to respond to meet the intent of this emergency declaration.

Section 4 – Effective Date.

This Declaration shall be in full force and effect upon signature and shall continue until December 31, 2025.

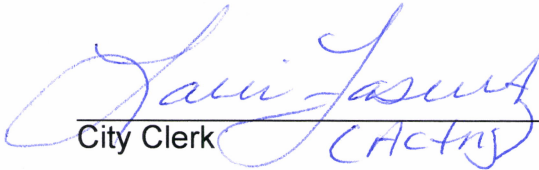
Section 5 – Ratification.

This emergency declaration shall be submitted to the City Council for ratification pursuant to SMC 2.04.060.

Dated this 29 day of October 2025.


Mayor Lisa Brown

Attest:


City Clerk (Acting)

Date of Publication: 11-5-25

Effective Date: 10-29-25

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

