

NO. _____

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFYING)
SPOKANE COUNTY RESOLUTION)
NOS. 14-0392, 15-0849, 17-0259, 18-0209)
and 18-0912 WHICH RE-ESTABLISHED))
THE SPOKANE COUNTY LAW AND
JUSTICE COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 72.09.300, every county legislative authority shall by resolution or ordinance establish a local law and justice council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 72.09.300(1), the county legislative authority shall determine the size and composition of the law and justice council, which shall include certain individuals in identified positions; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission, consisting of the Honorable James Murphy (Retired), James McDevitt, and Phillip Wetzel, authored a document entitled “A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM” which document was structured to allow an overview of the current criminal justice system operations, acknowledgment of work to date, followed by a set of recommendations for governance, reform and research; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 5.1(2) of A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM provided as follows:

Recommendation 5.1(2) Re-establish the Law and Justice Coordinating Committee and supporting workgroups

; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), RCW 72.09.300 and Recommendation 5.1(2) of A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM, the Board of County Commissioners re-established the Law and Justice Council under Spokane County Resolution No. 14-0392 and further modified the composition/provisions of Resolution No. 14-0392 under Resolution Nos. 15-0849, 17-0259, 18-0209 and 18-0912; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Resolution No. 19-1347, the Board of County Commissioners reconvened the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission to provide a

status report on the recommendations set forth in A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Resolution No. 19-1347, the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission authored a document entitled “THE BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM – STATUS REPORT (October 2020)”. The STATUS REPORT document addressed Recommendation 5.1(2) of A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM as follows:

5.1(2) Re-establish the Law and Justice Coordinating Committee & Supporting Workgroups.

The Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council (SRLJC) and its committees were reestablished shortly after the Blueprint’s publication. Since then, the Council has clarified that it is strictly an advisory body (consistent with RCW 72.09,300 and SRLJC bylaws) and cannot manage, direct, or implement initiatives. Although we commend the efforts of the SRLJC, the body has struggled to live up to its original charge due to the unwieldy number of participants, internal disagreement over the Council’s purpose and authority, and ongoing public scrutiny. As a result, local jurisdictions have established and disbanded a slew of other committees, task forces, and working groups over the past several years in order to manage and move projects forward. In many cases, such committees have been productive, but in other cases, they have thwarted centralized communication, planning, and public transparency. Moving forward, the CJC recommends shifting or replacing the SRLJC with a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, as endorsed by the National Institute of Corrections.

➤ **Bottom Line:** The SRLJC struggled to grow into an agile and effective working group necessary to catalyze change. County Commissioners and other officials should seriously consider replacing the SRLJC with a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has considered the recommendation of the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission with respect to replacing the SRLJC with a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee as endorsed by the National Institute of Corrections. The Board recognizes that if they establishment of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee as endorsed by the National Institute of Corrections under a code county, such as Spokane County, such Coordinating Committee would only be able to provide recommendations to elected officials or political subdivisions involved in the criminal justice system. As such, instead of duplicating the efforts of the SRLJC by the creation of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the Board of County Commissioners believes that it is more appropriate to address the Regional Criminal Justice Commission’s recommendation regarding the “unwieldy number of participants” in the SRLJC by reducing membership in the SRLJC thus fostering a stronger approach to addressing the charge of the SRLJC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to the provisions of:

- (1) RCW 36.32.120(6),
- (2) RCW 72.09.300, and
- (3) “THE BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM – STATUS REPORT (October 2020)”-“5.1(2) Re-establish the Law and Justice Coordinating Committee & Supporting Workgroups”

that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby modify Spokane County Resolution No. 14-0392, as modified by Resolution Nos. 15-0849, 17-0259, 18-0209 and 18-0912 as more particularly set forth in Attachment "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The provisions of this Resolution shall supersede and replace Spokane County Resolution No. 14-0392 as modified by Resolution Nos. 15-0849, 17-0259, 18-0209 and 18-0912. All Committees and Workgroups established under the superseded and replaced Resolutions shall cease unless reestablished by the Board of County Commissioners upon its own action or the request of the Committee as provided for in Section 8 of Attachment “A”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, that this Resolution shall be effective as of the date passed and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

JOSH KERNS, Chair

ATTEST:

MARY L. KUNEY, Vice-Chair

Ginna Vasquez
Clerk of the Board

AL FRENCH, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT "A"

(Underlined highlighted language added, lined out highlighted language deleted.)

Section 1: **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPOKANE COUNTY LAW AND JUSTICE COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

There is created a ~~board~~ local law and justice council, to be known as the Spokane County Regional Law and Justice Council, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee hereinafter referred to as the "Council" "Committee", which shall supersede and repeal all prior measures regarding bodies established pursuant to RCW 72.09.300.

The Council Committee shall have the following composition ~~as (the 13 italicized members are~~ required by RCW 72.09.300):

- a. ~~Three (3) members of the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners selected by the Board of County Commissioners;~~
- b. Spokane County Sheriff;
- c. A representative of Municipal Police Departments to be selected by the Municipal Police Departments;
- d. Spokane County Prosecutor;
- e. A representative of Municipal Prosecutors to be selected by the Municipal Prosecutors;
- f. City of Spokane Council Member to be selected by the Spokane City Council;
- g. A representative of the City Legislative Authorities, ~~other than the City of Spokane,~~ to be selected by the City Legislative Authorities;
- h. A representative of Spokane County Superior Court to be selected by the Spokane County Superior Court;
- i. A representative of Spokane County Juvenile Court to be selected by the Spokane County Superior Court;
- j. A representative of Spokane County District Court to be selected by the Spokane County District Court;
- k. A representative of Municipal Courts to be selected by the Municipal Courts;
- l. Spokane County Jail Administrator (Detention Services Director);
- m. Spokane County Superior Court Clerk;
- n. Spokane County Risk Manager; and
- o. Secretary of Corrections; ~~;~~
- p. ~~Spokane County Public Defender;~~
- q. City of Spokane Mayor;
- r. ~~Spokane County Pre-Trial Services Director;~~

- s. ~~A representative of the Spokane Municipal Court to be selected by the Spokane Municipal Court~~
- t. ~~City of Spokane Chief of Police;~~
- u. ~~Four (4) at large members representing the general population, to be selected by the Board of County Commissioners. -- The Council Strategic Planning Workgroup will be responsible for generating an updated list of regional criminal justice reform priorities every time a vacancy occurs in anyone of the four (4) at large members. This updated list will be shared with the Board of County Commissioners prior to posting any vacancies in any one of the four (4) at large member positions; and~~
- v. ~~Such other member(s) as the Board of County Commissioners may hereinafter determine to be beneficial.~~

Any elected member of the Committee who is a representative of his/her body shall be rotated on an annual basis within its membership. Provided, any representative may waive his/her right to be a member of the Committee in any rotation without waiving his/her right to be a member of the Committee in any future rotation.

Any member of the Council Committee may in writing appoint a designee. A designee from a representative body shall be from the representative body. All designees shall be speaking representatives on behalf of the member and a voting member on any matter coming before the Council Committee.

~~There is also created a Spokane Regional Law and Justice Administrative Committee, herein after referred to as the "Administrative Committee", which will have up to a maximum of seven (7) members.~~

~~The Administrative Committee shall be members of the Council and have the following composition:~~

- a. ~~The two (2) members of the Spokane County Board of County Commissioner;~~
- b. ~~City of Spokane Mayor;~~
- c. ~~City of Spokane Council Member to be selected by the Spokane City Council;~~
- d. ~~A representative of Spokane County Superior Court; and~~
- e. ~~Up to two (2) additional members.~~

~~The role of the Administrative Committee is to (1) receive the process, policy, administrative and budgetary recommendations of the Council, (2) analyze, authorize and implement resource allocations in alignment with those priorities and (3) advocate for priority reforms recommended by the Council members and the community at large.~~

Section 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council Committee is to provide a permanent on-going forum and structure to coordinate and enhance the administration of justice in Spokane County.

Section 3: **TERMS**

The terms of the members of the Council and Administrative Committee who are not designated by a selecting authority, elected shall run as long as such individual retains the prerequisite elected position. The terms of members of the Council and Administrative Committee who are designated by a selecting authority shall be rotated as provided for in Section 1 above, renewed by the selecting authority every four (4) years. ~~Provided, further, the terms of the (4) four at-large members, except as provided for herein after, shall be (4) four years and staggered so that a new at-large member is appointed every year. The initial terms of at-large members shall be as follows; at large member Position No.1, (4) four years terminating in October 2019; at large member Position No. 2, (4) four years terminating in October 2020; at large member Position No. 3, (4) four years terminating October 2021, at large member Position No.4, (5) years terminating in October 2022. The clerk of the Board of County Commissioners shall by lot determine which individual appointed to fill member Position No. 3 and member Position No. 4. After 2022, the member appointed to fill at large member Position No. 4, shall have a (4) four-year term. The selecting authority has the ability to designate a different representative provided that the underlying qualifications for the position are satisfied.~~ Members may be removed by their selecting authority. Except in the case of removal, each member shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed. Any non-elected official member shall have a four-year term.

Section 4: **COMPENSATION**

Members of the Council and Administrative Committee shall serve without compensation and/or per diem of any kind or nature whatsoever, including compensation for travel to and from the usual places of business to the place of a regular or special meeting of the Council or Administrative Committee.

Section 5: **MEETINGS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Council and Administrative Committee shall hold meetings as deemed necessary by the Chairperson or a majority of the Council or Administrative Committee, respectively. Provided, however, the Committee shall meet at a minimum twice annually. The Council and Administrative Committee may adopt rules and regulations governing the transaction of business. The Council and Administrative Committee shall keep public records of all actions as may be required by applicable laws. All meetings of the Council and Administrative Committee shall be open and accessible to the public as provided by law.

A quorum for doing business by the Council or Administrative Committee shall be established by the presence of at least 50% of the members or their authorized designees either in person or telephonically.

Section 6: **OFFICERS**

The chairperson of the Council Committee shall be selected a Spokane County Board of County

~~Commissioner member as designated by the Board of County Commissioners Committee on an annual basis in January by a simple majority vote of a quorum of voting members.~~

The vice chairperson of the ~~Council Committee~~ shall be selected by the ~~Council Committee~~ on an annual basis in January by a simple majority vote of ~~the~~ a quorum of the voting members.

~~The chairperson and vice chairperson of the Administrative Committee shall be selected by the Administrative Committee on an annual basis in January by a simple majority vote of a quorum of the voting members.~~

The chairperson~~(s)~~ shall preside over all meetings, and in the absence of such chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall preside.

Section 7: **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the ~~Council Committee~~ is to create and sustain a cost-effective regional criminal justice system that builds a healthy and strong community by fostering the best possible outcomes for ~~the community which are consistent with the law and community objectives of public safety, accountability, just punishment, appropriate treatment and increase public awareness so as to~~; ~~reducing~~ reduce recidivism and ~~increasing~~ increase system collaboration.

Section 8: **POWERS AND DUTIES**

The ~~Council Committee~~, in conjunction with carrying out the above mission statement, shall make recommendations to the appropriate elected officials ~~and the Administrative Committee~~ on the following issues:

- (a) Maximizing local resources including personnel and facilities, reducing duplication of services, and sharing resources between local and state government in order to accomplish local efficiencies without diminishing effectiveness;
- ~~(b) Reviewing data and reports with a goal of ensuring that departments are reducing recidivism, increasing program completion, engaged in more efficient practices, generating cost savings, expediting cases when appropriate, and contributing to a reduction in crime;~~
- (c) Jail management;
- (d) Mechanisms for communication of information about offenders, including the feasibility of shared access to databases; and
- (e) Partnerships between the department and local community policing and supervision programs to facilitate supervision of offenders under the respective jurisdictions of each and timely responding to an offender's failure to comply with the terms of supervision; and
- ~~(f) Developing a Local Law and Justice Plan for Spokane County. The Council shall design the elements and scope of the Plan, subject to final approval by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners. The general intent of the Plan shall include seeking~~

~~means to maximize local resources, reduce duplication of services, and share resources between local and state government.~~

The ~~Council~~ Board of County Commissioners on request of the Committee, or on its own action may establish temporary advisory work groups and/or subcommittees to assist the Committee in carrying out its powers and duties as outlined above.

The ~~Council~~ Committee has no authority to appropriate / expend any moneys or execute any agreements.

Section 9: **STAFF SUPPORT**

Spokane County shall provide staff support for the ~~Council and Administrative~~ Committee as is deemed necessary.