

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 Council 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 29th day of June, 2021.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON



ATTEST:


JOSH KERNS, Chair


MARY L. KUNEY, Vice-Chair


Ginna Vasquez
Clerk of the Board


AL FRENCH, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT "A"

Section 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF SPOKANE COUNTY LAW AND JUSTICE COUNCIL

There is created a board, to be known as the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council hereinafter referred to as the "Council" which shall supersede and repeal all prior measures regarding bodies established pursuant to RCW 72.09.300.

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

- a. *Spokane County Sheriff;*
- b. *A representative of Municipal Police Departments to be selected by the Municipal Police Departments;*
- c. *Spokane County Prosecutor;*
- d. *A representative of Municipal Prosecutors to be selected by the Municipal Prosecutors;*
- e. *A representative of the City Legislative Authorities to be selected by the City Legislative Authorities;*
- f. *A representative of Spokane County Superior Court to be selected by the Spokane County Superior Court;*
- g. *A representative of Spokane County Juvenile Court to be selected by the Spokane County Superior Court;*
- h. *A representative of Spokane County District Court to be selected by the Spokane County District Court;*
- i. *A representative of Municipal Courts to be selected by the Municipal Courts;*
- j. *Spokane County Jail Administrator (Detention Services Director);*
- k. *Spokane County Superior Court Clerk;*
- l. *Spokane County Risk Manager;*
- m. *Secretary of Corrections;*
- n. Spokane County Public Defender;
- o. Spokane County Pre-Trial Services Director; and
- p. Three (3) at large members in the community, one being a victim advocate, one being an individual impacted by the criminal justice system, and one being the chair of the Racial Equity Committee. All of the at large members shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.

Any elected member of the Council who is a representative of his/her body shall be rotated every two (2) years from within its membership. Provided, any representative may waive his/her right to be a member of the Council in any rotation without waiving his/her right to be a member of the Council in any future rotation.

Any member of the Council may in writing appoint a designee. The appointed designee should be the same individual to insure continuity of representation. All designees shall be speaking representatives on behalf of the member and a voting member on any matter coming before the Council.

Section 2: **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Council 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 who are not designated by a selecting authority, shall run as long as such individual retains the prerequisite elected position. The terms of members of the Council who are designated by a selecting authority shall be rotated as provided for in Section 1 above. The terms of at large members shall be two (2) years. Provided, however, the initial three (3) at large members shall be those individuals selected by the Board of County Commissioners and currently holding Position No. 2, Position No. 3, and Position No. 4 on the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council prior to the effective date of this document. These three (3) individuals shall hold their positions until their terms under the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council prior to the effective date of this document would have expired, namely Position No. 2 (September 26, 2024), Position No. 3 (October 3, 2021) and Position No. 4 (October 3, 2022). 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.

Section 4: **COMPENSATION**

Members of the Council 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.

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

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

A quorum for doing business by the Council 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 shall be selected by the Council on an annual basis in January by a simple majority vote of a quorum of voting members.

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

The chairperson 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 is to create and sustain a cost-effective regional criminal justice system which includes facilities, programing, funding, and legislative matters intended to build a healthy and strong community that fosters 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 reduce recidivism and increase system collaboration.

Section 8: POWERS AND DUTIES

The Council, in conjunction with carrying out the above mission statement, may make recommendations to the appropriate elected officials of Spokane County and the legislative bodies/elected officials of cites/towns located in Spokane County on the issues identified below. Provided, in carrying out the mission statement set forth in Section 7, any recommendation addressing facilities, programing, funding, or legislation may be referred by the Board of County Commissioners to a Committee to be known as the Legislative Policy Committee. The Legislative Policy Committee shall meet twice annually or as needed and shall consist of the following individuals: one County Commissioner to be selected by the Board of County Commissioners, the Mayor of the City of Spokane, the Mayor of the City of Spokane Valley, an elected representative of "small cities", the Sheriff, and the County Prosecutor. The terminology "small cities" shall mean all cities and towns within Spokane County other than the City of Spokane and City of Spokane Valley. The Legislative Policy Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on facilities, programing, joint funding or legislative matters considered by the Council.

The issues which are the subject of this Section are:

- (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) Jail management;
- (c) Mechanisms for communication of information about offenders, including the feasibility of shared access to databases;
- (d) 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

- (e) Reviewing the recommendations made by Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission regarding the governance, reform and research of the criminal justice system in Spokane County set forth in “THE BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM (2013)” as well as the “THE BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM-STATUS REPORT (October 2020)” with the goal of addressing the Mission Statement in Section 7.

The Board of County Commissioners on request of the Council, or on its own action may establish permanent or temporary advisory committees to assist the Council in carrying out its powers and duties as outlined above.

The Board of County Commissioners shall establish a permanent advisory committee to be known as the Racial Equity Committee. The Racial Equity Committee shall consist of five (5) members. Four (4) members shall be selected by the Council. The fifth member, who shall be the chair, shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Council 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 as is deemed necessary.