

NO. _____

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION /
RESOLUTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN
CHAPTER 38.52 RCW AND RCW 36.40.180
RESPECTIVELY RELATED TO THE
PROPERTY COMMONLY REFERRED TO
AS CAMP HOPE AND OTHER MATTERS
RELATED THERETO

RESOLUTION / PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”), Spokane County has established a County Emergency Management Program (SCEM) to address, among other matters, emergencies and disasters occurring within Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 39.34, the “Interlocal Cooperation Act”, the County and local governments have entered into service agreements authorizing the County to provide assistance as requested by the local governments; and have authorized the Spokane County Sheriff to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County (“Board” or “Board of County Commissioners”) a proclamation of an emergency or a disaster and if the Board ultimately by proclamation declares such emergency or disaster, SCEM shall have the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to victims of such disaster; and;

WHEREAS, RCW 38.52.010(13)(a) defines “emergency” to include “...an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences . . .” and RCW 38.52.070 provides for local organizations to join in the establishment and operation of a joint local organization for emergency management; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.40.180, upon the happening of an emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot or insurrection \ or for the immediate preservation of order of public health or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of public property, the usefulness of which has been destroyed by accident, the Board of County Commissioners, upon the adoption of a unanimous vote of the commissioners present at any meeting, may adopt a resolution stating the facts constituting an emergency and entering the same upon their minutes after which expenditures necessary to meet such an emergency without further notice or hearing may be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Spokane County an encampment of homeless individuals, commonly referred to as “Camp Hope”, that are living outdoors in temporary shelters, such as tents and under tarps, without access to utility services, reliable heat, cooking facilities, and other necessities of daily life; and

WHEREAS, the winter months are rapidly approaching, which presents an extreme risk to those persons living at Camp Hope, and it is expected that flammable fuels and materials will be used to provide sources of heat that will pose an imminent threat to the health and safety of homeless individuals at Camp Hope; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a fire or other emergency situation resulting from the conditions referenced in the immediately preceding recital, such emergency situation presents an immediate threat to responding medical and emergency care providers of Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, Camp Hope has had at times a population exceeding 600 persons, with a current estimated population of more than 400 persons that are largely unprotected from the elements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 38.52.070(1) and the Interlocal Cooperation Act executed among Spokane County and the local governments, the Spokane County Sheriff has requested that the Board of County Commissioners declare / proclaim an emergency in conjunction with the above referenced facts as well as those set forth in his correspondence dated October 20, 2022, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and herein incorporated by this reference; and

WHEREAS, Spokane Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer, pursuant to the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act executed between Spokane County and the City of Spokane, , has requested activation of the County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) under Spokane County Emergency Management ("SCEM") to "...address the region's crisis responding to vulnerable community members experiencing homelessness in Camp Hope" which is evidenced in Exhibit "B", which is attached hereto and herein incorporated by this reference; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above referenced recitals and the request of the Spokane County Sheriff, the Board of County Commissioners is desirous of declaring a proclamation / resolution pursuant to the provisions of RCW 38.52 *et. seq.* and emergency under RCW 36.40.180.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to RCW 36.40.180 and RCW 38.52 *et. seq.* as follows:

Section 1, There is hereby declared by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington an emergency, as provided for in RCW 36.40.180, due to the situation and circumstances described herein regarding Camp Hope and the immediate preservation of order or of public health, and as such, designated county departments are authorized to enter into contracts and incur expenditures necessary to combat such emergency without further notice or hearing; and

Section 2, That pursuant to the provisions of RCW 38.52 *et. seq.*, the emergency described in Section 1 hereinabove, constitutes an emergency and as such county departments, to include the Emergency Management Department in conjunction with implementing the Spokane County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ("CEMP"), shall have the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster

without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements); including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding, and publication of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, and other items set forth in Chapter 38.52 *et. seq.*; and

Section 3, Each and every recital hereinabove is adopted as a fact supporting an emergency as set forth in RCW 36.40.180 and RCW 38.52 *et. seq.* and the Clerk of the Board is directed to enter this resolution in the minutes to support the emergency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MARY L. KUNEY, Chair

ATTEST:

AL FRENCH, Vice-Chair

Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

JOSH KERNS, Commissioner

EXHIBIT "A" to Follow

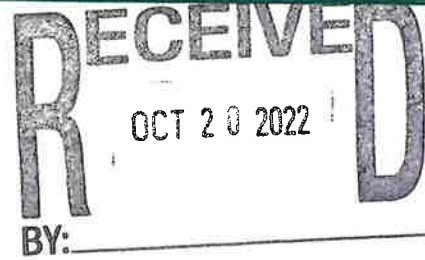


SPOKANE COUNTY
SHERIFF
SHERIFF OZZIE D. KNEZOVICH

"In partnership with the community -
Dedicated to your safety"

October 20, 2022

Commissioner Mary Kuney, Chair
Commissioner Al French, Vice Chair
Commissioner Josh Kerns
Spokane Board of County Commissioners
Spokane County Courthouse
1116 W Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260



Dear Commissioners:

As the Sheriff of Spokane County and Director of the Spokane County Emergency Management Office, and pursuant to RCW 38.52.010 (13)(a) and RCW 36.40.180, I'm recommending and requesting the Spokane Board of County Commissioners approve a Proclamation of Emergency related to the mitigation of Camp Hope, an encampment of homeless individuals within Spokane County.

RCW 38.52.010(13)(a) states, "Emergency or disaster" ...means an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences; ..."

Camp Hope has become the largest encampment of homeless in Washington State with a population at times exceeding 700. Today its population is estimated at approximately 400 residents. Its occupants largely are unprotected from the elements except for tents. There is not permanent provision of water, sanitary sewer, cooking facilities, bathing facilities, or protection from extreme weather on the site.

With the onset of winter and sub-freezing temperatures in the forecast, moving this population to a climate-controlled shelter until they can find more permanent housing is critical to protecting public health and protecting life.

Additionally, this encampment is placed primarily on public property and the lack of sanitary sewer and use of illicit drugs within the camp threaten to contaminate the property.

Finally, the community surrounding the encampment -- businesses, residences, and schools -- have been affected by significantly increased levels of crime, trespass, and vandalism that has greatly reduced the economic viability of the neighborhood and threatened to close area businesses. The health and safety of both students and faculty at Libby Elementary School have been put at risk as well by camp residents who frequent the campus during operating hours.

For these reasons, I ask that the BOCC approve a Proclamation of Emergency in coordination with my activation of the Emergency Operations Center to address the crisis.

The Proclamation of an Emergency by the BOCC under RCW 38.52.010 (13)(a) /RCW 38.52.070 (2) and RCW 36.40.180 will allow the Spokane County Emergency Management Office to:

- (1) enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such emergency without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements); including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding, and publication of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, and other items set forth in RCW 38.52.070(2); and
- (2) enter into contracts and incur expenditures necessary to combat such emergency without further notice or hearing to include time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such emergency as set forth in RCW 36.40.180

Sincerely,



OZZIE D. KNEZOVICH, Sheriff
Spokane County

CC:

Scott Simmons, County CEO
Gary Petrovich, County Senior Director, Finance & Administration
Mark McClain, Chief Civil Attorney

Exhibit "B" to Follow

Vasquez, Ginna

From: Evans, Casey
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 10:33 AM
To: Vasquez, Ginna
Cc: Emacio, James; Andersen, Dayle; Evans, Casey
Subject: Work Product - Attachment "B"

From: Schaeffer, Brian <bschaeffer@spokanecity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 12:11 PM
To: Fox, Chandra E. <CEFOX@spokanecounty.org>
Cc: Perkins, Johnnie <jperkins@spokanecity.org>; Woodward, Nadine <NWoodward@SpokaneCity.org>
Subject: Request for ECC

Chandra,

Pursuant to the DEM ILA, the City of Spokane requests ECC activation. The activation aims to address the region's crisis responding to vulnerable community members experiencing homelessness in Camp Hope.

As discussed in the agency stakeholder's meeting on October 18th in the Sheriff's conference room, the four priorities can serve as guidance or anchor points for the preparation of the ECC's effort:

1. Offer shelter space and services to those displaced individuals residing in the encampment.
2. Develop a plan to store the personal property of those at the encampment securely.
3. Provide safety and security for the people on site who are providing the displaced individuals with assessments for services and housing and those work crews working to clear the encampment.
4. Restoration and cleanup of the property.

Due to pre-scheduled activity that is immovable in the former FTC space, we will need to temporarily locate the ECC on the SFD's Campus at **1610 N Rebecca Street**. Unfortunately, the SFD is hosting a national symposium in partnership with NIST, UL, FDNY, EPA, WA Military, DOT, with several hundred people traveling into Spokane. The seminar involves experiments with permitted activities involving hazardous materials that cannot be moved. The seminar will occur from Tuesday through Thursday. We can return the ECC to the FTC if desired after the course.

Fortuitously, the space is newly vacated and was formerly our Paramedic School. The building's logistics are the same as the FTC. However, I would welcome anyone from the staff to come over and help us set it up for temporary use as the ECC.

Thank you yesterday's meeting and in advance for the collaboration moving forward.

Brian Schaeffer (*he/him/his*)
Spokane, WA Fire Department
Fire Chief