

Every Spokane resident wants to feel safe where we live, work, and shop, in all Spokane neighborhoods and parks.

Restoring public safety, rebuilding trust.

We all want the security of knowing that police officers and firefighters will be there when we need them – no matter what zip code we live in.

We all want first responders, who put their lives on the line, to have the tools and training they need to effectively respond to calls for help.

We all want people who commit violent crimes or property crimes to be held accountable. We must end the cycle of the same people repeatedly committing crimes.

And we all want an effective and compassionate response to people who are in crisis, suffering from domestic violence, severe health, or mental health challenges.

Despite wanting the same things, over the last several years, the city has been in a free fall in the wrong direction:

- Calls to police for service are only responded to 42% of the time¹.
- Violent crimes in downtown are up by 35% year to date with robberies and assaults making up the majority of that growth².
- Residential burglary is up 34% in Indian Trail, Audubon/Downriver, and the Northwest neighborhood just this year to date².
- Residential property crime has increased 40% this year in Nevada Heights, Shiloh Hills, and the Whitman neighborhoods².
- Domestic violence is up more than 14% just this year-to-date².
- The number of people experiencing homelessness has increased 30% in the last year³.

We can stop this downward spiral.

These public safety commitments were developed after many meetings and conversations with people from across the city.

The strategies outlined incorporate recommendations from:

- neighborhood leaders
- downtown and neighborhood business owners
- judges
- police officers
- firefighters
- mental health providers
- advocacy groups
- leaders from communities of color
- residents serving on task forces and advisory committees
- non-profit leaders

These commitments were also informed by data contained in the Spokane Police Department Morale Report and the reports of the Office of Police Ombudsman. They include best practices in use today in successful programs in other cities around the country.

Through these conversations, one thing has become very clear: **Spokane needs a leader who can not only develop a public safety plan but can work with others to actually get things done.**

There are local, state, and federal resources we can mobilize to help fund our efforts. And there are proven strategies that yield measurable results that we can implement here in Spokane.

Together, we can get Spokane moving in the right direction again, reinvigorate our beautiful downtown and enhance quality of life in our neighborhoods.

¹ Spokane Police Department Patrol and Precinct Reorganization Press Conference, January 5, 2023: <https://vimeo.com/786726814>

² Preliminary Citywide IBR Crime Report, Spokane Police Department. June 3, 2023

³ Annual Point-in-Time Count, Spokane County 2023

⁴ Morale in the Spokane Police Department, Line-Level Vertical Staffing Committee



Funding and Supporting Spokane Police and Fire Departments.

A 42% police response rate to calls for service in 2022 is unacceptable. Spokane is below the national average for both officers⁴ and firefighters per population, and we must make it a priority to address our shortage through better recruitment, training, and retention. **Our public safety system around the city and in rapidly growing areas like Latah Valley requires a Police Department and Fire Department that are fully staffed, trained, funded, accountable, and trusted.**

- My administration will update our community's level of service standards for Police and Fire through a public process and will publicly report the staffing plans necessary to meet those levels of service.
- I will direct our Police Chief to publicly report police response rates by neighborhood quarterly, and we will establish a public goal of moving citywide response rates higher every year.
- My administration will restore the Neighborhood Resource Officer program eliminated by the Woodward Administration.
- We will rebuild trust by strengthening the Office of Police Ombudsman and restoring the dialogue between the Mayor's Office, law enforcement, and communities of color that has broken down.
- We will create enhanced training and leadership development opportunities for public safety personnel such as those suggested in the 2022 Police Morale Report.



Expanding Capacity to Break the Crisis Cycle.

Right now, tremendous resources are used by police and firefighters transporting people in a mental health or substance use crisis to emergency rooms or jail – only to be discharged back to the streets and predictably repeating this cycle days or weeks later. To create meaningful change in our community, we must use proven strategies to break this cycle. The current co-responder team in the Police Department is good, but it is inadequate to the need, and relies on unsustainable funding. The crisis stabilization unit developed by Spokane County with resources provided by the Department of Commerce is working, but it is also inadequate to meet the need.

- I will work with higher education institutions, workforce development, healthcare, and labor organizations to create pathways for the behavioral health and public health workforce needed in our region.
- We will seek state funding to expand community behavioral health facilities and support proven programs working in other communities.



Partnering with Community

for Effective Prevention Programs.

Violent crime is on the rise, and our community must be part of the solution. We need a renewed focus on breaking the cycles of domestic or gang violence by creating programs that divert people from dangerous situations. Upstream public safety and justice system investments can prevent crime, reduce pre-trial jail use and recidivism, and assist victims of crime. Moreover, upstream investments like these reduce strains on our system and on first responders' safety, time, and mental health.

- My administration will explore proven innovative programs throughout our state that address youth gang violence.
- I will strongly support the use of therapeutic courts and the City's Community Court that allows an individual to avoid jail by showing success in a treatment program.
- I will work with community partners like the YWCA to make sure Spokane is taking full advantage of programs offered by the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, the Housing Trust fund, and the Behavioral Health facilities program.



Building a Coordinated Navigation Center

Homeless
Response.

My administration will create a coordinated, data-driven response to homelessness based on a "Navigation Centers" model which mobilizes public, private, and non-profit resources in specific locations where unsheltered individuals and families are identified by name and assessed and referred to pathways to stable housing. We will actively pursue the millions of state and federal funds that the current mayor has left on the table for affordable housing.

- My administration will organize and fund service providers of mental health, addiction treatment and recovery, employment, and housing who will implement a coordinated intake and referral system for unsheltered people.
- I will execute the City's law of providing warming, cooling, and safe air centers to vulnerable citizens that the current Mayor has refused to implement.
- We will partner with federal, state, and local elected officials to seek out and secure funds for homelessness response and affordable housing.

Through these priorities, we will strengthen the public safety response in our community, hold people who commit crimes accountable, increase connection between law enforcement and our neighborhoods, provide support and resources to our first responders and mental health professionals, and invest in proven strategies for reducing crime, substance use, and homelessness.