

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Extra Meeting
October 19, 2021
6-7:30 pm
Zoom

Welcome

Virtual Sign-in

[Officers] Carol Tomsic, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Makaya Judge

[Neighbors] Glenn & Vanita Davis, Marilyn & Hank Reimann, Rebecca Gahl-Partridge, Ruth Minks, Glenn & Vanita Davis, Annika Tohlen & Colin, Michelle Weaver, Diane Birginal

[Guests] Ofc Jake Willard, Johnnie Perkins, Steven Clark, Matthew Antush, Annica Eagle

Neighborhood Updates

Officer Jake Willard

- Parking enforcement is overwhelmed with RV's and abandoned vehicles. SPD is trying to help minimize that impact on the community. Call 311 to report.
- Still working on homeless camp team trying to get services to those in need.
- Working with landlords/property owners on trouble houses to reduce negative activity.
- Traffic units continue to be assisting patrol units, which makes them less available for traffic enforcement.

Johnnie Perkins - City Manager

Mr. Perkins holds two priorities. Safety is most important to the City. Secondly, customer experience must exceed expectations when it comes to public services. He discussed a number of things going on in the City right now.

- They assembled members of code and NRO teams over the summer to eliminate 887 trouble vehicles that were backlogged. They also aim to work towards increasing safety at neighborhood parks.
- They plan to post “no parking” signs during the hours when parks are closed. This will help reduce night activity at parks.
- This will be enforced with towing. They plan to install call boxes on the Monroe Street Bridge to access emergency services to reduce suicides.
- The City has signed contracts with two new shelter locations, and bringing others back on line that were previously closed.
- “Beautify Spokane” and “The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)” have been created to help

manage the homelessness issue to have compassion for those in need while getting illegal activity off the street to help make this a safe City for all of Spokane. They will be removing litter and graffiti.

- They have installed a dozen more E-bikes downtown.
- Behavioral health units and training have been a priority when it comes to law enforcement.
- The City has been focusing on smart investments such as a new low-barrier shelter outside of the downtown area. The vision will be to combine services in one location in as soon as two or three months.
- Housing inventory needs to be improved. The market isn't stable, and the Mayor has declared a housing emergency. It used to take 6 weeks for residential permits, but it is now down to two weeks. They are using consultants to help deal with processing permits in order to speed up the process.
- They are hiring a housing policy specialist and have hired a new civil rights officer to make sure they help folks navigate resources more easily.
- City has access to millions in rent and utility relief funds that will be distributed soon.
- Marilyn asked about our shelter capacity. We do have shelter capacity to house everyone, but some people experiencing homelessness do not choose to go there. Our first approach is compassion, but there are some individuals who do not want those services.

Judge Matthew Antush – Municipal Court Judge No. 3

- Discussed his background and his interests. He is running to retain his position as a Municipal Court Judge. He has worked for a few years in the community court. He was inspired by the experience of trying to break down barriers for individuals, facilitate access to services, and help them become contributing members of the community. He acknowledges that it is more impactful and less expensive to try and keep individuals out of jail when possible. Contact him with questions at <https://www.judgemattantush.com/>

Other business

- Discussion of speed limits by parks and bicycle share lanes

Adjourn 7:00