



City of Spokane 2004 Accomplishments

Mayor James E. West
January 14, 2005

- ▶ National Civic League - **All-America City Award.**
- ▶ Population Connection - **Second most “kid friendly” of large cities in the U.S.**
- ▶ World Teleport Association - **One of the 7 Most Intelligent Communities in the World.**
- ▶ National Arbor Day Foundation - **“Tree City USA.”**
- ▶ Forbes Magazine - **One of the best “Porch-Swing” Communities in the nation.**
- ▶ Milken Institute - **55th “Best Performing” City, up from 157th in 2003.**
- ▶ AARP - **One of 15 “Dream Towns” where Baby Boomers can reinvent themselves.**
- ▶ Entrepreneur Magazine - **#6 among midsize “Best Cities” in the West.**
- ▶ Hospital and Health Networks - **All five Spokane hospitals part of “100 Most Wired & Most Wireless Hospitals.”**

Spokane City Council

Dennis Hession, Council President

Bob Apple
Al French

Cherie Rodgers
Joe Shogan

Brad Stark
Mary Verner

Citizen Priorities

Over the next three pages, you will find a variety of information on accomplishments at the City of Spokane in the last year. Those accomplishments are based on the seven citizen priorities we used to establish the 2005 City budget. They include: Growth & Learning, Healthy Citizens & Environment, Leadership, Reduced Vulnerability, Mobility, Safety, and Strong Economy.

Growth and Learning:

I want the opportunity to learn and grow.

Arts

- ▶ Created two murals in the underpass at Browne Street adjacent to the House of Charity.
- ▶ Reached more than 100,000 users through the www.spokanearts.org web site.

Library

- ▶ Added technology that allows the library to notify customers by email when books are due, when reserved books are available, and more.
- ▶ Provided the "Spokane Is Reading" book selection, *Ender's Game*, to more than 1,000 customers, and enrolled over 4,100 kids in the summer reading program.
- ▶ Installed self-check machines at three library branches.

Parks

- ▶ Designated as a Tree City USA.
- ▶ Celebrated Manito Park's 100-year anniversary.
- ▶ Opened the Hillyard Skate Park and the Centennial Trail/Sandifer Bridge.

Youth

- ▶ Continued work on the Youth Empowerment Zone project in Hillyard, helping create a voice for youth and making Hillyard a safer, healthier, more vibrant community.
- ▶ Accepted more than 2,300 nominations for Chase Youth Awards.



Healthy Citizens & Environment:

I want the opportunity to lead a healthy life with clean, air, water, and land.

Environmental Programs

- ▶ Helped with renewal of City-County Aquifer Water Quality Testing Agreement.
- ▶ Completed a number of investigations and remedial cleanups.

Solid Waste Management

- ▶ Added 1,350 curbside Yard Waste customers.
- ▶ Restructured all North and South residential garbage pickup routes to improve customer service and worker efficiency.
- ▶ Installed new stationary tamping cranes at the North County and Valley transfer stations.

Regional Solid Waste System

- ▶ Named "National Recycler of the Year" by National Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp.
- ▶ Achieved WISHA's safety STAR rating at the Waste-to-Energy facility.
- ▶ Reached best communitywide recycling rate ever at 45%.



Wastewater Management

- ▶ Completed \$25.5 million in wastewater collection and treatment system upgrades.
- ▶ Installed enhancements at the Riverside Park Water Reclamation Plant to improve safety following the May 10 accident.

Water & Hydroelectric Services

- ▶ Adopted a new water rate structure that promotes better stewardship of water resources and new funding for capital projects to replace aging infrastructure.
- ▶ Completed a significant portion of the Westside Transmission Main project, which will enhance water service to West Spokane and the West Plains.

Leadership:

I want strong and responsive leadership that gets results.

City Clerk

- ▶ Processed over 2,000 new City documents.
- ▶ Moved to a new City document indexing system.

Communications

- ▶ Added new programming to CityCable 5, including a Mayor's program, a neighborhood program, a planning series, and traffic cameras.

Finance

- ▶ Developed a 2005 budget with current year revenues higher than current year expenditures, reversing a 30-year trend.
- ▶ Received a AA- bond rating from Standard & Poor's, up 5 notches from the previous BBB.

Fleet Services

- ▶ Completed specifications on a new fuel and wash facility for City vehicles.
- ▶ Received a contract to perform repairs on state vehicles stationed in Eastern Washington.

Human Resources

- ▶ Increased employee training by 28%.
- ▶ Negotiated and settled contracts with seven employee bargaining units/unions.

Legislative Affairs

- ▶ Received \$4.1 million in direct federal appropriations for University District infrastructure and, with community partners, \$50 million in the Washington state capital budget.

Management Information Services

- ▶ Established the SpokaneHotZone, a 100-block wi-fi network with free public access and secure municipal uses.
- ▶ Launched a new City web site complete with on-line utility bill paying.

Neighborhood Services

- ▶ Organized the first "Cleaning from the Core" cleanup program that attracted 150 participants.
- ▶ Organized the 27th Neighborhood Council—Minnehaha.

Retirement

- ▶ Grew retirement fund to nearly \$200 million.

Treasurer

- ▶ Implemented program to allow for wider acceptance of credit and debit cards at the City.

Reduced Vulnerability:

I want to reduce the vulnerability for citizens at risk.

Community Development

- ▶ Received a \$2.3 million HUD grant to identify and contain lead hazards in homes and apartments in the City's 13 Community Development neighborhoods.
- ▶ Invested \$1.8 million in federal block grant monies in the rehabilitation of 86 low-income single family, owner-occupied homes.
- ▶ Used \$1.7 million in HOME funds to assist with construction of 51 new low-income housing units and the rehabilitation of 128 others.



East Central Community Center

- ▶ Increased participation in senior programs, including exercise classes and senior meals, by 70%.
- ▶ Expanded operation at community Medical Clinic from 3 to 5 days a week with grant funding.
- ▶ Provided business support services to 41 area businesses.

Human Services

- ▶ Provided homelessness assistance grants which allowed local agencies to provide 121 family units and 486 individual beds for the homeless and add 18 new units.
- ▶ Completed the 2004 Continuum of Care for the Homeless Plan, allowing the City to apply for \$3.1 million in HUD homelessness assistance grants.
- ▶ Helped 5,000 individuals a month through grants to service agencies that provide emergency food, health care, counseling, and other services.

Mobility:

I want to get where I want to go in a safe and timely manner.

Capital Projects

- ▶ Managed the ongoing \$20 million Monroe Street Bridge rehabilitation project.
- ▶ Received \$17.9 million in matching federal grant dollars for projects, including Broadway Avenue realignment, Havana Street Bridge, and Washington Street reconstruction.

Streets & Engineering Services

- ▶ Conducted six community forums to inform people about our streets.
- ▶ Completed councilmanic street bond projects on time and on budget, including Indian Trail Road, Fifth Avenue, and Stevens Street reconstruction projects.
- ▶ Repaired 16 lane miles of asphalt pavement.
- ▶ Swept 4,900 lane miles of streets, painted more than 2.8 million feet of arterial lane lines, and made 3,300 street signs.
- ▶ Converted all 60-minute meters in downtown to 90-minute meters.



Street Bond

Our thanks go out to Spokane's voters who approved a \$117 million, 10-year plan to repair Spokane's streets over the next 10 years.

While that work initially was planned to begin in 2006, we didn't want to wait that long. Two projects are being up to 2005:

- ▶ The reconstruction of Maple/Ash from Wellesley to the north City limits.
- ▶ The reconstruction of Greene Street from Mission to past the Spokane River.

We'll also reconstruct Third Avenue downtown and complete many other projects in '05.

And, we've already saved money to provide additional street work. Significant reform in the 2005 budget led to an improved bond rating and a \$200,000 savings in insurance costs on the first sale of bonds for the streets.

Safety:

I want to feel safe and secure at home, work and play.

Fire

- ▶ Completed the City-County Combined Communications Building, home to 9-1-1 services and police and fire dispatch.
- ▶ Completed the Fire Department Training Classroom and Office Building, which also is the home to the City-County Department of Emergency Management.
- ▶ Put a new 100-foot tillered ladder truck in service at Fire Station No. 4 to replace a 1979 vintage unit.

Police

- ▶ Made significant improvements in the area of technology, with most officers directly entering data into the Police computer system, greater information sharing between jurisdictions, and the addition of wireless technology.
- ▶ Addressed the long-standing problem of transient camps with the passage of the Transient Shelter Ordinance, while participating with the Homeless Task Force to reduce homelessness in Spokane.
- ▶ Achieved greater traffic safety, as recent statistics show another decrease in injury accidents.



Municipal Court

- ▶ Participated in the Ticket Writer Parking Project, enabling parking enforcement officers to electronically issue parking tickets.
- ▶ Implemented use of "Language Line," a telephonic interpreter service that saves the cost of an interpreter coming to a court date.

Probation Services

- ▶ Managed 2,500 new probation cases for supervision and monitoring, including 867 cases involving domestic violence.
- ▶ Screened 4,000 individuals for financial eligibility for representation by the Public Defender's Office.

Public Defender

- ▶ Integrated the use of new technology to improve efficiency.
- ▶ Won a 9-0 decision at the State Supreme Court on the issue of the constitutionality of an ordinance related to prostitution.

Strong Economy:

I want a healthy, growing economy.

Building & Code Enforcement

- ▶ Issued a record number of permits, including 575 permits for new residential construction projects totaling \$108 million in valuation.
- ▶ Assisted with major projects, including Spokane Convention Center, Gonzaga University's new arena, and the WSU Academic Building.
- ▶ Inspected and tested 95% of weighing and measuring devices, recording a 50% drop in store failures of scanner/price accuracy tests.

Economic Development

- ▶ Completed the University District Strategic Master Plan.
- ▶ Garnered the 2004 Top U.S. Intelligent Community Award and named finalist for the 2005 award.
- ▶ Partnered on the launch of the SpokaneHotZone/Downtown Wireless Initiative, with significant national and international media coverage.

Engineering Services

- ▶ Developed new Developer Services Tracking System, greatly enhancing customer service.

Historic Preservation

- ▶ Helped save the historic Rookery and Mohawk buildings downtown.
- ▶ Started program to revitalize older neighborhood business districts; work included the façade improvement program in Hillyard.



Planning

- ▶ Procured more than \$250,000 in grants for various projects and programs, including monies to revitalize neighborhoods.
- ▶ Launched the "Spokane Building Blocks" educational series, which is shown on CityCable 5.
- ▶ Assisted 13 neighborhoods with neighborhood and center planning processes.

Public Works

- ▶ Completed Verhoogen annexation and made progress toward two additional annexations on the South Hill.