

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF IMPROVING)
TRANSPARENCY BY NEGOTIATING)
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS)
IN A MANNER OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (hereinafter sometimes 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, a transparent government is a top priority for Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) was passed by citizen initiative in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the legislative declaration of the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.010) states in part:

The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

and;

WHEREAS, collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) are among the most expensive contracts negotiated by Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, both taxpayers and employees deserve to be informed how they are being represented during collective bargaining negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the appearance of secret deal-making will be eliminated by allowing public oversight to collective bargaining negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the OPMA exempts collective bargaining negotiations (RCW 42.30.140), but does not compel such negotiations to be conducted secretly; and

WHEREAS, the OPMA does not prohibit local governments from conducting collective bargaining negotiations more transparently than required by state law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, from this day forward, Spokane County shall conduct all collective bargaining contract negotiations in a manner that is viewable by the public in real time, either in person or on video; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, members of the public observing collective bargaining negotiations shall not be permitted to participate in or comment during the negotiations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Spokane County shall provide public notice of all collective bargaining negotiations in accordance with the OPMA (RCW 42.30.060 – 42.30.080); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Spokane County shall post on its website, within two business days, copies of any bargaining proposals it provides to or receives from unions during collective bargaining negotiations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Spokane County bargaining representative shall be permitted to meet privately to discuss negotiating strategy, goals, and methods, and shall be permitted to meet privately with union representatives if solely discussing issues pertaining to specific Spokane County personnel; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution does not apply to meetings related to any activity conducted pursuant to the enforcement of a CBA after it has been negotiated and executed, including, but not limited to, grievance proceedings, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Spokane County send a copy of this resolution to the County CEO, to all employees, to all union representatives, and all other deemed appropriate by County Officials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON



ATTEST:


Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board


JOSH KERNS, Chair

ABSENT
MARY KUNEY, Vice-Chair


AL FRENCH Commissioner