



January 9, 2022

Mayor Nadine Woodward  
Council President Breean Beggs  
Council Members Jonathan Bingle, Michael Cathcart, Lori Kinnear, Karen Stratton, Betsy Wilkerson,  
and Zach Zappone

The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area requests that the City of Spokane immediately find replacement low-barrier shelter bed locations for those individuals who have been housed for the last two weeks at the Convention Center warming facility.

Due to freezing temperatures on 12/26/21, the City of Spokane did open a temporary warming facility at the Convention Center. Although it was originally intended to shelter only 150 individuals experiencing homelessness, on 1/6/22 there were over 310 individuals at this warming center and an additional 160 individuals were staying outside in three encampments. There were only 34 beds available at the four adult-only low-barrier shelters.

Today 1/9/22 at 8am, the City closed the temporary warming facility at the Convention Center, sending over 300 people onto the streets, even though it was only 19 degrees this morning. The City's action violates Spokane Municipal Code 18.05.030 section B3, stating that "At no time shall the City reduce or eliminate specific night-by-night shelter beds without first having in place additional replacement shelter bed capacity sufficient to meet the requirements of SMC 18.05 unless authorized by City Council resolution." In addition, Spokane Municipal Code 18.05.020 states that warming centers "will be activated on each day during which the temperature is predicted by the National Weather Service to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower." The overnight lows are predicted to be at 32 degrees or lower eight out of the next 10 days.

During this inclement weather and given that there are not adequate low-barrier shelter beds for the over 450 people in our City currently living unsheltered, the City needs to stop the sweeps of these individuals due to the *Martin v. Boise* ruling.

Please provide adequate shelter for these individuals!

*Dawn Shuster, Chair, Housing/Homelessness Committee, League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area*

*Jennifer Calvert, Becky Dickerhoof, Stephanie Watson, Marilyn Darilek, Sherri Gangitano, April May*