



SPOKANE MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY COURT

Public Safety Building
1100 W. Mallon Ave.
Spokane, Washington 99260
(509) 622-5867

Current Members:

Judge Mary C. Logan

*Mubarak Abdur Raheem
Assistant City Prosecutor*

*Candace Magnin
Assistant City Prosecutor*

*Francis Adewale
Assistant Public Defender*

*Gerhard Dunlap
Assistant Public Defender*

*Tim Sigler
Probation Supervisor*

*Travis Lindsley
Probation Officer*

*Captain Dave Singley
Spokane Police Dept.
Downtown Precinct*

*Brianne Howe
Coordinator*

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Spokane Municipal Community Court Expands to Northeast

SPOKANE (September 18, 2017) – The Spokane Municipal Community Court is set to launch a new Community Court in the Northeast section of the city, to include neighborhoods north of the river, east of Division, and stretches to the north and east county lines (see attached map).

Community courts seek to build stronger and safer neighborhoods, reduce recidivism and improve participants' lives by addressing the underlying problems that may lead them to commit crimes, and as a result, increase the public's trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. Community courts strive to achieve these goals by utilizing a problem solving approach with a strong emphasis on building partnerships and collaborations among government agencies, social service providers, and community groups.

Spokane Municipal Community Court was established in 2013 in response to the challenges faced by many communities throughout the Downtown core and adjacent neighborhoods (Browne's Addition, East Sprague, & Cliff/Cannon).

In July 2016, Spokane Municipal Community Court was awarded a grant from the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for the purpose of expanding to another geographic area of the city. Three geographic areas of Spokane were chosen in late 2016 as potential expansion sites – East Central, West Central, and Northeast.

A thorough community needs assessment was completed over the course of eight months under the guidance of the nationally recognized founder of community courts, the Center for Court Innovation. The needs assessment consisted of six focus groups; 19 stakeholder interviews; 17 presentations at neighborhood council and other community meetings; and a thorough review of statistics. While all neighborhoods demonstrated unique needs and were supportive of hosting a community court, crime data provided by the Spokane Police Department led to the ultimate decision to open the next Community Court location in the Northeast community.

The Northeast branch's boundaries include the 99207 zip code, which has been identified as having some of the highest poverty rates in Washington State. This area also experiences the highest crime rates outside the Downtown core. These two factors align with Spokane Municipal Community Court's goals of making the connection between quality of life crimes, poverty, and healthcare.



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For a case to be eligible for the court, the person charged must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have been charged with a nonviolent misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor
- Live within the designated Northeast branch boundaries
- Have a non-sexual criminal history
- Accept responsibility for the harm caused

Unlike the Downtown branch of Community Court, which sees weekly docket numbers well over 100, the Northeast branch will serve a smaller number and limit referrals to direct citations from law enforcement as it gets established. Court proceedings will convene at The Northeast Community Center once/week.

The Spokane Municipal Community Court Northeast branch plans to resolve conflicts through restorative justice practices to emphasize the ways crime harms relationships in the community and brings together those most impacted by the crime to repair the damage. Victims have the opportunity to directly address the defendant to express how they were hurt and what they need to heal from the crime. Defendants who successfully complete the program have the opportunity to have their charges dismissed. The expansion location will rely heavily on law enforcement diversion and community referrals to further the court's impact in the Northeast.

Spokane Municipal Community Court received support for continued expansion efforts from all neighborhoods interviewed, along with local businesses, the faith community, ethnic minority groups, neighborhood councils, rotary clubs, and social service providers. In the months ahead we hope to continue consultations with Spokane Public Schools, Homeless Coalition, and faith leaders in the Northeast community to ensure readiness and support when the expansion launches by early 2018.

Attachments:

Northeast branch boundary map