

SPOKANE BUSINESS OWNERS: TAKE BOLD ACTION TO GET TO YES

Small businesses are the backbone of Spokane's economy, and have been tested greatly over the past two years. Now, we're being tested again: If you've visited downtown Spokane recently, you know that homelessness isn't transitory or a small nuisance. It's a full-fledged crisis that's been building for some time. And it's getting worse, not better. That's why we can no longer afford city leaders continuing to treat our response with business as usual.

We don't use the word crisis to be hyperbolic or alarmist. The individuals experiencing homelessness day in and day out know it's a crisis. Our employees who leave work and look over their shoulders know it's a crisis. Business owners who can't attract customers or employees to downtown because of the rising crime and vandalism know it's a crisis. Families afraid to come downtown for shopping and dinner know it's a crisis. And our whole community knows it's a crisis when new businesses take a pass on opening a location in Spokane.

This isn't just a matter of perception, either; the data shows us that as years of talk have resulted in little action, the situation has in fact worsened. Spokane's current rate of homelessness per capita has grown to three times the national average. Citywide public opinion polling shows that 96% of Spokane citizens are concerned about homelessness. And like us, they want decisive action to address it.

We recognize that this is a complicated issue — there is no simple or easy solution. There are as many reasons someone is homeless as there are people experiencing it.

That's why we must take a collaborative approach — one that focuses on the root causes, addressing the gaps in systems and services today, and learning from models that have worked in other cities.

As a community, we want to champion solutions and a community action plan that are backed by data and evidence that will get real results. We want solutions that will meet individuals where they are, meet them with dignity and offer hope and a way out. We know we must take on all the facets of this community public health and safety crisis, which means compassionately addressing addiction, offering resources for mental health and helping individuals gain the skills and experience they need to become self-sufficient.

We all want Spokane to thrive — we live here, we raise our families here, we run businesses here, all because we love Spokane. As citizens, we can no longer sit on the sidelines and watch politics, endless posturing and inaction take away our city's best attributes.

As business owners, employees and property owners, we implore our city leaders to get off the sidelines. Be bold. Take immediate action. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Support solutions including new shelters and a camping ordinance that compassionately cleans up downtown, business corridors and our neighborhoods. Working together, let's advocate for community solutions that help keep Spokane healthy and safe for everyone.

Ellie Aaro, *Beacon Hill Events*

Kent Adams, *Spokane Talks*

Mark Aden, *DCI Engineers*

Bill & Renie Alles, *Churchill's Steakhouse*

Ira Amstadter, *Express Employment Professionals*

The Autolofts Home Owners Association

Tony Baird, *The Woodshop*

Alicia Barbieri, *Goodale & Barbieri Company*

Cory Barbieri, *Goodale & Barbieri Company*

Thomas Barbieri, *Goodale & Barbieri Company and Tapio Professional Center*

Chris Batten, *RenCorpRealty*

Danny Beard, *East Spokane Business Association*

Chris Bell, *NAI Black*

Alisha Benson, *Greater Spokane Inc.*

Melissa & Ryan Berg, *Crafted Beauty*

LaVerne Biel, *Consultspace*

Linda Biel, *Urbanna Spa, Salon & Wine*

Dave Black, *NAI Black, Black Realty Management Inc. and The WAVE Restaurant*

Zoe Boesen, *Dept. Z*

Matt Bogue, *Houdini Interactive*

Bill Bouten, *Bouten Construction Company*

Bill Boyd, *Boyd Insurance*

Jamie Breen, *FIG. 1 Patents*

Penn Brownlee, *Houdini Interactive*

John Bryant, *No-Li Brewhouse*

William Butler, *WEB Properties, Inc.*

Guy Byrd, *SVN Cornerstone*

Richard Campbell, *Campbell & Bissell, PLLC*

Ilfong Chen, *Ilfong Chen Photography*

Kent Clausen, *KVC Developments and Sterling Hospitality Management*

Jason Clerget, *Propaganda Creative*

Corey Condron, *Condron Homes*

Tony Conti, *Houdini Interactive*

Damian Cronkrite, *Revamp Panels*

Craig Crowley, *DCI Engineers*

Jessica & Derrick Cruz, *Bigelow Gulp Espresso*

Justin Curtis, *Cochinito Taqueria*

Mark D'Agostino, *Meridian Construction & Development, Inc.*

Lindsey Davis, *Lavish Salon*

George Demakis, *East Spokane Business Association*

Patrick DeVries, *DeVries Business Services*

Jerry Dicker, *GVD Developments, Steam Plant Hotel, Hotel Ruby and The Bing*

Travis Dickinson, *Cochinito Taqueria*

Kevin Edwards, *Globe Building Partners, LLC*

Jeff & Aja Engels, *Europa Restaurant & Bakery*

Jerry Ensminger, *Testcomm, Inc.*

Jason Ferraro, *Ferraro's (North) Restaurant & Bar*

Cyndi Fridye, *East Spokane Business Association*

Keely Friesen, *Vertical Options Elevator Service and KMF Properties, LLC*

Suzy Gage, *Echo Boutique*

Jeff Gallagher, *Yost Gallagher Construction*

Terry Goebel, *TSDDevelopment, LLC*

Matt Goodwin, *Goodwin Group*

Jacob Grady, *Surface Experts*

Deb Green, *Madeleine's Cafe and Durkin's Liquor Bar*

Matthew Hanson, *The Whistle Punk*

Jack Heath, *Washington Trust Bank, The Buffalo Building, City Ramp Garage, Fire House Number 1/B&H Enterprises and The Cracker Building*

Drew Henry, *Revival Tea*

Gordon Hester, *Kiemle Hagood*

Ann Heylman Martin, *Heylman Martin Properties*

Josh Hissong, *HDG Architecture*

Skip Hissong, *Nudo Ramen House*

Mike Hogan, *Chimney Rock Mortgage*

Susan Horton, *Wheatland Bank*

Kyle Hurley, *Propaganda Creative*

Armando Hurtado, *HDG Architecture*

Sheldon Jackson, *Selkirk Development*

Sean Jaques, *Colormatics*

Eric Johnson, *Coldwell Banker Tomlinson*

Shawna Jones, *Imortel Spa*

Ben Joyce, *Ben Joyce Gallery*

Jerid Keefer, *312 Group*

Geoff Kellogg, *KellCraft Design Build*

Alex King, *Heritage Bar & Kitchen*

Cameron Langham, *PAPE Machinery*

Greg Lipsker, *Barrister Winery*

Chris Marcus, *Colormatics*

Shawn McCartney, *Revamp Panels*

Amy & Doug McCoy, *House of PoP*

Robin McGinnity Vasquez, *Bricks & Timber, LLC*

Tracy Miller, *DSI Construction*

Mark Newbold, *Cataldo Investors, LLC*

Juli Norris, *Kasa Restaurant & Tapouse and Downriver Grill*

Andrew Northrop, *Spokane Hardware Supply, Inc.*

Chris Olson, *Olson Projects*

John Pariseau, *Globe Building Partners, LLC*

Amber Park, *Wanderlust Delicato*

Kerry Parker, *Dutch Bros. Coffee*

David Peterson, *Goodale & Barbieri Company*

Mike Quann, *Maviga North American*

Bonnie Quinn Clausen, *QUINN Advertising*

Rob Reed, *R&R Heating & Air Conditioning*

Sheri Ritchie, *The New Moon Art Gallery*

Aaron Rivkin, *Ladder Coffee*

Curtis Rystadt, *Hotel Indigo*

Steve Schmutz, *SDS Realty*

Mike Schnurr, *Cataldo Investors, LLC*

Chris Setty, *Jaazz Salon*

Chris Siemens, *Mustard Seed and Noodle Express*

Tom Simpson, *Ignite Northwest*

Harry & Shawn Sladich, *GoJoe Patrol*

Jason Spears, *Locust Cider*

Peter Stanton, *Washington Trust Bank*

Mark Starr, *David's Pizza*

Jingou Sun, *Nudo Ramen House*

Jordan Tampien, *4 Degrees Real Estate and Brick West Brewing*

Jeremy Tangen, *Borracho, Red Wheel, Globe, Lantern, River City Brewing, Boombox and Fast Eddies*

Gina Timmerman, *Cool Suites*

Don Ting, *Pyrotek*

Brian Toone, *Jewelry Design Center*

Doug Trudeau, *Trudeau's Marina and the East Spokane Business Association*

Len Urgeleit, *Stellar Services, LLC*

Bruce Van Cott, *VanCapital*

Evan Verduin, *Trek Architecture*

Rick Welliver, *Spokane Boxing*

Chud Wendle, *Northtown Square*

Scott Wetzel, *Windermere Services Mountain West*

Chad White, *Chad White Hospitality Group*

Mike White, *Barrister Winery*

Mark Wilkerson, *MarketPlace Winery*

Miranda Williams, *Wittkopf Enterprises*

Gabe Wood, *Heritage Bar & Kitchen*

Barbara Woodbridge, *East Spokane Business Association*



helping empower lifelong opportunities | helloforgood.org | P.O. Box 25, Spokane WA 99210

hello for good is an organization representing a coalition of private businesses committed to improving social issues, homelessness and livability in our communities. A donor directed fund has been established with the Innovia Foundation, a 501(c)(3) community foundation, to support its efforts.