

*The Riverside Neighborhood Council*



*2003 Annual Report*

*Table of Contents*

<i>Mission Statement</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Organization Description</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Our Partners (Associates)</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>

*Issues Addressed and Major Accomplishments for 2003*

<i>An Open Letter from the Chair</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>Issues Addressed</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>

***Mission Statement***

*“Our Mission is to improve and preserve the integrity and the quality of life in our neighborhood. To review, advise and advocate matters affection residents, property owners and business operators before the city and it's agencies”.*

**Organization Description**

<i>Date Recognized</i>	<i>March, 1998</i>
<i>Number of Meetings in 2003</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Average Attendance at Meetings</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Total Membership</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>(Includes Members of Record and Associate Members)</i>	

**Board of Directors**

<i>Gary L. Pollard: Chair</i>	<i>Gene Klozar: Vice Chair</i>
<i>Charlotte Pierce: Sec./Tres.</i>	<i>Rich Graham</i>
<i>Warren Heylman</i>	<i>Jim Kolva</i>
<i>Julia Rahmann</i>	<i>Judy Ritter</i>
<i>Ron Wendale</i>	<i>Gerald Winkler</i>

**Organizations We've Partnered (Associate) With**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>* The Downtown Steering Committee</i>    | <i>* C.O.P.S. Downtown</i>      |
| <i>* The Davenport District Arts Board</i>  | <i>* Operation “CA_RE”</i>      |
| <i>* Downtown Spokane Partnership</i>       | <i>* The Light Rail Project</i> |
| <i>*Downtown Parking Steering Committee</i> | <i>* One Spokane</i>            |

## *From the Chair*

**“To improve and preserve the integrity and the quality of life in our neighborhood.”** These words are more than just the first sentence of our Mission Statement, but symbolize the essence of the Riverside Neighborhood Council. Ours is an urban neighborhood, bustling, diversified, and resourceful, and our membership spans the full scope of contrasts one would find in a thriving inner city. As such, our neighborhood council has been involved in a variety of issues of importance to our cosmopolitan environment.

### **“Improving and Preserving the Integrity of Our Neighborhood”**

We have always believed that ours was much more than a neighborhood, but rather the heart of your city and we are merely its trustees. Consequently, our members scrutinize every undertaking that we are aware of to the best of our ability, and act when deemed necessary.

One of our communities biggest assets is it’s stock of historic and unique buildings. This year a large section of our neighborhood has been placed on the National Registry of Historic Neighborhoods. This accomplishment provides a significant tool for the economic development of our neighborhood. Other areas of new preservation efforts have been the “Legionaries Building”, "Montvale Building", the "Railside Center Block", and the “Havermale” project. We’ve campaigned to deter the demolition of other structures, like the “Rookery Block”; as well as strive for amendments to the Demolition Permit process to prevent further razing of historic buildings to be replaced by parking lots.

In the area of new developments our neighborhood has taken its first steps toward construction of “up-scale” lofts, in order to attract the much needed middle to upper-middle income resident into our population. Two of the more exciting projects that started this year are “The Big Easy” and expansion of the Convention Center. Both endeavors will not only be an economic boom for our entire community, but will spearhead new growth and development in our city’s core. Other areas of progress over the past year have been text amendments to our Comprehensive Plan, and the Post Street L.I.D.

### **“Improving the Quality of Life in Our Neighborhood”**

We believe that one of our primary functions is to forge a livable, safe, pleasant, and clean environment. One that is enjoyable for resident, business operator, employee and visitor alike. Consequently, we have used our meetings as a source of information and deliberation, while using our voice to advocate matters of great concern.

One of the most pressing issues facing our society today is the state of health care. Recognizing that the majority of our residents live on a low or fixed income and the need for low cost, quality health care then this issue becomes even more critical. In response to that need, we invited guests to one of our meetings to find out exactly what was available, the cost, and the services provided. Compared to other areas we are very fortunate, for we have three excellent health care providers. They are “The House of Charity”, “C.H.A.S.E.”, that has recently relocated on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Avenue, and “Project Access”.

We hosted our annual "Open Forum on Public Safety" with representatives from the Police Department, C.O.P.S. Downtown, and the Washington State Department of Corrections. Our neighborhood's N.R.O. Officer Max Hewitt gave an update on our neighborhoods crime statistics. With the exception of burglaries, major criminal activities in our neighborhood are down by 34% compared to last year. This past year we have advocated for the proposed Camping Ordinance, as well as text changes to the Public Harassment Ordinance and the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance.

Today's reality links regional issues with the well-being of our neighborhood, mass-transit for example. A proposed Light Rail/Streetcar system is planned to flow through the center of our neighborhood. Therefore, as part of an analysis group a few of our members traveled to Portland, OR. to study their system. One of the side benefits from this trip was the opportunity to examine Portland's "Pearl District." The knowledge gained can be useful in successfully recycling our older buildings. In addition, we are actively voicing our opinions on the Spokane Transit Authority's proposed route changes.

This year, as in years past we applied a portion of our Solid Waste Management grant to help clean up after the major events that take place in the central core of our neighborhood. Additionally, 38 residents, non-profits, and small businesses took advantage of a Dump Pass program held over a two-week period.

Other areas of interest were members of our neighborhood council are involved are:

- Our Downtown Steering Committee used their Community Development Block Grants to assist social service programs, non-profits, multi-family housing, and the repair of sidewalks and wheelchair ramps in our neighborhood.
- As participants in the Downtown Parking Steering Committee, we are involved in a comprehensive study on traffic and parking within our downtown core area.
- As a result of two successful fund raisers, the Davenport District Arts Board donated and distributed 8 "Artwork" benches throughout portions of our neighborhood.

This coming year promises to one full of challenges, opportunities, and continued growth. Consequently, our neighborhood council expects to be as diligent and as vigilant as we've ever been, perhaps more so.

Sincerely;

Gary Pollard: Chair  
For the Riverside Neighborhood Council

## **ACTIONS TAKEN**

We advocated for the historical preservation of the following:

- The “Rookery Block”
- The Spokane Brewery
- Placement of the East-Side Historical Neighborhood on the National Registry

We campaigned for the following public safety issues:

- The Camping Ordinance
- Public Harassment Ordinance
- Disorderly Conduct Ordinance

We were involved in the following quality of life issues:

- The Downtown Steering Committees replacement of sidewalks and wheelchair ramps
- A comprehensive study on parking and traffic in our downtown core
- Solid Waste Grant/ Dump Pass Program
- A Light Rail/Streetcar system
- A voter registration drive
- Advocated on matters relating to proposed changes in mass transit
- Advocated for stricter demolition permit guidelines

## **ISSUES ADDRESSED**

We invited a variety of guests to speak on the following items; we took action on several:

- “ The Big Easy" Project
- Amendments to our Comprehensive Plan
- Convention Center expansion
- Light Rail/Streetcar system
- Post Street L.I.D.
- An Open Forum on Public Safety
- Violent Offender Release Program
- Neighborhood health care facilities
- A City Council Candidate Forum