

Committee Agenda Sheet

Public Safety & Community Health

Submitting Department	City Council
Contact Name & Phone	Breean Beggs x6254
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Council Sponsor(s)	CP Beggs
Select Agenda Item Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Time Requested: 30
Agenda Item Name	Forfeiture SMC Update & Broader Discussion
Summary (Background)	This ordinance makes updates to the section 08.19 of the Spokane Municipal Code to clarify and codify the process for approving expenditures of forfeiture funds while ensuring that the fund maintains a healthy balance.
Proposed Council Action & Date:	Final reading September 19, 2022
Fiscal Impact: Total Cost: <u>N/A</u> Approved in current year budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Funding Source <input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring Specify funding source: Expense Occurrence <input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)	
Operations Impacts	
What impacts would the proposal have on historically excluded communities? This ordinance explicitly requires equal spending from state forfeiture funds on drug buy/CI payments and at-risk youth drug prevention programming. Expanding youth programming would reduce drug crime.	
How will data be collected, analyzed, and reported concerning the effect of the program/policy by racial, ethnic, gender identity, national origin, income level, disability, sexual orientation, or other existing disparities? N/A	
How will data be collected regarding the effectiveness of this program, policy or product to ensure it is the right solution? N/A	
Describe how this proposal aligns with current City Policies, including the Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, Capital Improvement Program, Neighborhood Master Plans, Council Resolutions, and others? This SMC update aligns with section 12 of the City of Spokane Charter and clarifies language in SMC 08.19 regarding the use of forfeiture funds.	

ORDINANCE NO. C36271

An ordinance relating to the permitted use of forfeiture funds; amending sections 08.19.30-040 of the Spokane Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the long and well-established laws of the State of Washington provide for law enforcement agencies to seize and subsequently, through legal process, cause the forfeiture of assets used in, or gained from, illegal activity to be disposed of; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Spokane Police Department implemented comprehensive policies and ethical standards in regards to seizing property; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Police Department undergoes annual audits by the Washington State Auditor's Office regarding the receipt and use of proceeds of those seizures; and

WHEREAS, police youth programs are proven methods of expanding and improving law enforcement activity to reduce the crimes targeted by the above forfeiture statutes, particularly youth drug diversion, prevention, and mitigation strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane City Council intends to ensure that the proceeds legally obtained by the Police Department are used for the "expansion and improvement" of law enforcement within the City of Spokane that is proven to reduce crime and recidivism; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has final authority over the City of Spokane's budget, including approval of the spending of forfeiture dollars, and the Chief of Police and City Council must work together to determine the best use of these funds; and

WHEREAS, the regulations regarding the use of state forfeiture funds differ from those regarding the use of federal forfeiture funds; and

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That sections 08.19.030-040 of the Spokane Municipal Code are amended to read as follows:

Section 08.19.030 Permitted Use of Funds

- A. No asset forfeiture funds may be expended beyond the purposes allowed under applicable state and federal law and may not supplant existing funding. Limitations on the spending of federally derived forfeiture assets shall not apply to the spending of state derived forfeiture assets.

- B. Asset forfeiture funds under the control of the Police Department may only be spent by appropriation and approval of the Spokane City Council under its applicable policies for approving budgets and expenditures.
- C. The City Council will not approve any special budget ordinance spending ((of any)) asset forfeiture funds for any purpose absent a request by the Chief of Police for spending for that purpose. ~~((The Chief of Police may request expenditure of asset forfeiture funds as part of the preparation and submission of the annual budget to City Council or by requesting approval of an special budget ordinance.))~~
- D. The Chief of Police may request expenditure of asset forfeiture funds as part of the preparation and submission of the annual budget to City Council or by requesting approval of a special budget ordinance.
- E. The City Council may include expenditure of forfeiture funds in the annual budget for any purpose that the Chief of Police has previously requested funding regardless of whether the Chief is currently requesting funding for that purpose.
- F. The City's top priorities for spending state authorized forfeiture funds are as follows. The City will annually fund these two priorities equally from state funds and will not expend additional state forfeiture funds if it would reduce the reserve of state forfeiture funds below \$250,000.
 - a. Payments to confidential informants and for controlled drug purchases; and,
 - b. At-risk youth drug prevention programming and services based on peer support and leadership by individuals who have successfully exited criminal justice involvement.

Section 08.19.040 Reporting on Use of Funds

The Police Department shall provide to the Spokane City Council Public Safety Committee quarterly and yearly reporting of the receipt of proceeds from all civil forfeiture funds, the specific source of all forfeiture funds and all expenditures of forfeiture funds including the amount paid from the proceeds to the Washington State Treasurer. The reports shall also provide information related to and certification that all seized funds were spent consistent with any limitations imposed by federal or state law. No forfeiture funds are permitted to be spent in any annual quarter until a written report of the same quarter from the previous year has been submitted to City Council at a standing Public Safety and Community Health Committee meeting.

PASSED by the City Council on _____.

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date