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For Immediate Release

Brown names transition committees to help set agenda

SPOKANE — Mayor-elect Lisa Brown announced a plan Tuesday to convene neighborhood, business and community leaders to identify the city's most important concerns before she takes office Jan. 1.

"I promised a better way, and a better way starts here," Brown said. "We're bringing diverse people together, listening to what's important to them, and working together."

Volunteer committee members will tackle five key topics in the next few weeks: public safety and law enforcement; health and housing; economy and workforce; preparing for a sustainable future; and families and communities.

Brown also announced the launch of a website, BetterWaySpokane.com, where residents can learn more about the transition work and share ideas for the committees to consider.

"I've been a part of seven transitions," said Gavin Cooley with Spokane Regional Collaborative and a former chief financial officer for the City. "This effort we are kicking off today fills me with new levels of excitement for the years ahead."

Brown said she asked the committee members to prioritize challenges and opportunities related to each committee's topics. She will use their guidance to decide where to focus her attention. The groups include residents from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, genders and socioeconomic backgrounds. They include neighborhood and business leaders and advocates for youth, the environment and the arts.

“My administration will be working for all families in Spokane and for a sustainable, resilient future for our region,” Brown said. “I’m asking for guidance on priorities from community members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Each of these individuals brings their own kind of leadership and expertise to these conversations.”

Ginger Ewing, co-founder and executive director of Terrain, supported the approach.

“I am particularly excited by the transition process that Mayor-elect Brown has created, because it feels truly representative of all of Spokane,” Ewing said. “The committee work engages voices from across our community. It taps into the huge wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists here.”

The committees and their co-chairpersons were announced at Tuesday’s press conference, held at the Catalyst Building in the University District:

- **Enhancing Public Safety and Building Trust**, led by Maggie Yates (Former Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council Administrator), Mike Ormsby (Former U.S. Attorney) and Virla Spencer (The Way to Justice).
 - Full committee:
 - Maggie Yates
 - Mike Ormsby
 - Virla Spencer
 - Chris Jordan
 - Maryann Moreno
 - Justin Bingham
 - Sean Nemec
 - Hancel Sanchez
 - Emilie Cameron
 - Greg Bulkley
 - Larry Soehren

- Curtis Hampton
- Mike Connelly
- Jeremiah Bourgeois
- Howard Delaney
- Toni Lodge
- Andy Bessmer
- Francis Adewale
- Sally Winn
- **Improving Health and Housing Options**, led by Fawn Schott (Volunteers of America Spokane), Marty Dickinson (STCU) and Dr. Luis Manriquez (Community Health Association of Spokane).
 - Full committee:
 - Fawn Schott
 - Marty Dickinson
 - Dr. Luis Manriquez
 - Marcus Riccelli
 - Tija Danzig
 - Dylan Dressler
 - Amber Lenhart
 - Lerria Schuh
 - Jonathan Mallahan
 - Zeke Smith
 - Robert Lippman
 - Ben Stuckart
 - Cara Carlton
 - James Gallina
 - Jim Frank
 - Chris Batten
 - Joe Ader
 - Kelli Miller

- Terri Anderson
- **Investing in Economy & Workforce**, led by Charlotte Nemec (Greater Spokane Incorporated & Canopy Credit Union), Kelly Fukai (Washington Technology Industry Association), Luis Licea (Northwest Laborers).
 - Full committee:
 - Charlotte Nemec
 - Kelly Fukai
 - Luis Licea
 - Marvo Reguindin
 - Laura Ives
 - Tom Simpson
 - Francis SiJohn
 - Vange Hochheimer
 - Todd Woodard
 - John Sklut
 - Stacie Maier
 - John Bryant
 - Marcelo Morales
 - Mark Mattke
 - Brian Walter
 - Mike Senske
 - Gary Livingston
 - Kerra Bower
 - Stephanie Curran
- **Building a Resilient Future**, led by Dr. Brian Henning (Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment), Gavin Cooley (Spokane Regional Collaborative) and Latisha Hill (Avista).
 - Full committee:
 - Dr. Brian Henning
 - Gavin Cooley
 - Latisha Hill

- Elyse Hochstadt
- Jerry White
- Rick Romero
- Steve Helmbrecht
- Larry Luton
- Karl Otterstrom
- Rick Boutz
- Andy Barrett
- Mike Allen
- Kara Odegard
- Tim Dunivant
- Darrin Griechen
- Dale Silha
- John Powers
- Margo Hill
- **Enriching Families & Communities**, led by Amber Waldref (Spokane County Commissioner), Freda Gandy (MLK Jr. Family Outreach Center) and Ginger Ewing (Terrain).
 - Full committee:
 - Amber Waldref
 - Freda Gandy
 - Ginger Ewing
 - Mark Finney
 - Juan Mas
 - Jennyfer Mesa
 - Sima Thorpe
 - Rick Welliver
 - Amy Knapton Vega
 - Deb Brock
 - Tamara Bradley

- Jeremy Whittington
- Maisa Abudayha
- Lacreacia “Lu” Hill
- Ian Sullivan
- Ryan Oelrich
- Adam Swinyard

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