



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Date: 01.16.2025

CONTACT
Kelly Conley
Communication and Media Manager
(509) 822-1846
kelly.conley@SREC911.org

News Release

SREC Board of Directors Ends Discussions with City of Spokane Regarding Regionalization

Spokane County, WA – After more than five years of extensive discussions, the Spokane Regional Emergency Communications (SREC) Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to end discussions with the City of Spokane regarding its integration into the regionalized emergency communications system. This decision follows over a year of dedicated efforts to find a collaborative solution, always with the best interests of the entire Spokane region in mind.

Throughout these discussions, SREC has worked diligently to provide the City of Spokane with detailed information, addressed concerns, and answered numerous questions to facilitate their transition into the regional model. Despite these efforts, key City officials have shown reluctance to fully embrace regional collaboration. This resistance by a single agency has created significant barriers to progress for the 20 other fire and law enforcement agencies across Spokane County currently served by the regional system. While the City of Spokane Fire Department successfully joined the regional model in 2022 due to staffing challenges, the City itself has not moved forward with full integration into the regional system.

The City's stance on critical legislative matters, such as HB 1258—which would inequitably direct county tax dollars to address the City's financial and public safety challenges—further illustrates a growing divergence in priorities. These actions would favor the City of Spokane's needs over the Spokane regional area, a position not supported by SREC or its member agencies.

“SREC remains fully committed to public safety and to our role as a regional partner for all law enforcement and fire agencies across the region,” said Cody Rohrbach, SREC Board Chair and Spokane County Fire District 3 Chief. “The City of Spokane's decision to value its own needs to the detriment of the broader region leaves the Board no choice but to move forward independently.”



Despite these challenges, SREC remains steadfast in its mission to provide comprehensive, efficient, and collaborative emergency communications services to the entire Spokane community.

“This was a difficult decision,” said John Nowels, SREC Board Member and Spokane County Sheriff, “but over the past year, it has become clear that District 3 State Representatives have chosen to prioritize the needs of the City of Spokane over the broader regional interests, politicizing public safety funding in the process. This difference in priorities has created a fundamental distrust on how we approach regional collaboration. SREC remains focused on making decisions that serve the best interests of all the residents and taxpayers of Spokane County, ensuring that the needs of the entire community remain at the forefront of our work and decision making. I have no doubt that the City of Spokane Police and Fire Departments can provide independent and effective 911, Crime Check and Dispatch services to their citizens”

At its January 16 meeting, the SREC Board approved the following key motion:

- **Recommendation to the Spokane Board of County Commissioners:** To allow the City of Spokane to establish itself as a Primary PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) by January 1, 2026.

SREC remains committed to serving the region and advancing its mission of enhancing public safety through innovation, collaboration, and operational excellence. As the City of Spokane establishes its independent PSAP, SREC will work to ensure a smooth transition, while maintaining uninterrupted service for all its member agencies.

“We respect the City’s decision to pursue a path they believe is best for their residents,” said Brad Richmond, SREC Board Vice Chair and City of Airway Heights Police Chief. “With over five years of demonstrated success and a continued focus on our strategic goals, SREC is excited for the future. We look forward to building on our achievements and continuing to provide exceptional service to the communities that rely on us.”



About Spokane Regional Emergency Communications

Spokane Regional Emergency Communications (SREC) is a regionalized emergency response communications organization formed in 2018 as a Public Development Authority. Located in Spokane, Washington, SREC serves more than 550,000 citizens throughout the county as the primary PSAP for the region. In addition to answering emergency and non-emergency calls, SREC currently provides Fire and Law Dispatch services to 14 local Fire Protection Authorities and 7 local Law Enforcement Agencies in Spokane County. These services span more than 1,700 miles, and include management of more than 4,900 radios, 23 tower sites, and a backup center. SREC also writes reports for most of the law enforcement agencies in the region. SREC currently employs approximately 140 employees across the organization. SREC's mission is to get the right resources to the right location with an uncompromising focus on responder and citizen safety.

###