May 5, 2016

Citizens Advisory/Review Board
Spokane County Sheriff’s Office
1100 W. Mallon, PSB
Spokane, WA 99260

Dear Citizens Advisory/Review Board:

Attached is my final report following the review I conducted of the Citizens Advisory/Review Board (CAB). I appreciate the opportunity I had to work with the CAB, Sheriff Knezovich, and stakeholders throughout Spokane County in assessing the CAB’s role in providing oversight of the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO).

The report summarizes the steps I took during my review, themes from stakeholder input, ways the CAB currently is making contributions to SCSO oversight, and changes to consider that could enhance accountability and transparency of CAB’s own efforts and the work of the SCSO. I heard from Spokane County community members that it is important that the CAB and Sheriff’s Office keep them informed about completion of the report and planned steps moving forward.

I want to acknowledge the work of CAB Vice-Chair Bob West in helping to develop the scope of this project, secure funding, identify stakeholders, coordinate a full two-day agenda, and facilitate the set up (and clean up) for all meetings. In addition to volunteering his time during our 12-hour days, Bob devoted significant personal funds to ensure that coffee, water, and snacks were available. He has been an excellent project liaison and provided valuable input throughout.

Two other people were particularly instrumental for this review. Rick Eichstaedt, the Executive Director for the Center for Justice, provided guidance during the project’s initial planning phase and encouraged and coordinated involvement of stakeholders. Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof offered the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane for a large community meeting and served as the moderator for the event. I thank them both for their assistance.

Finally, I also appreciate the support Sheriff Knezovich provided for this review. He has expressed a willingness to consider changes to the CAB and SCSO to enhance accountability and transparency and made himself available throughout the process.
Again, thank you very much for this opportunity and please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Olson

Cc:  Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich
     Rick Eichstaedt, Executive Director, Center for Justice
     Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof