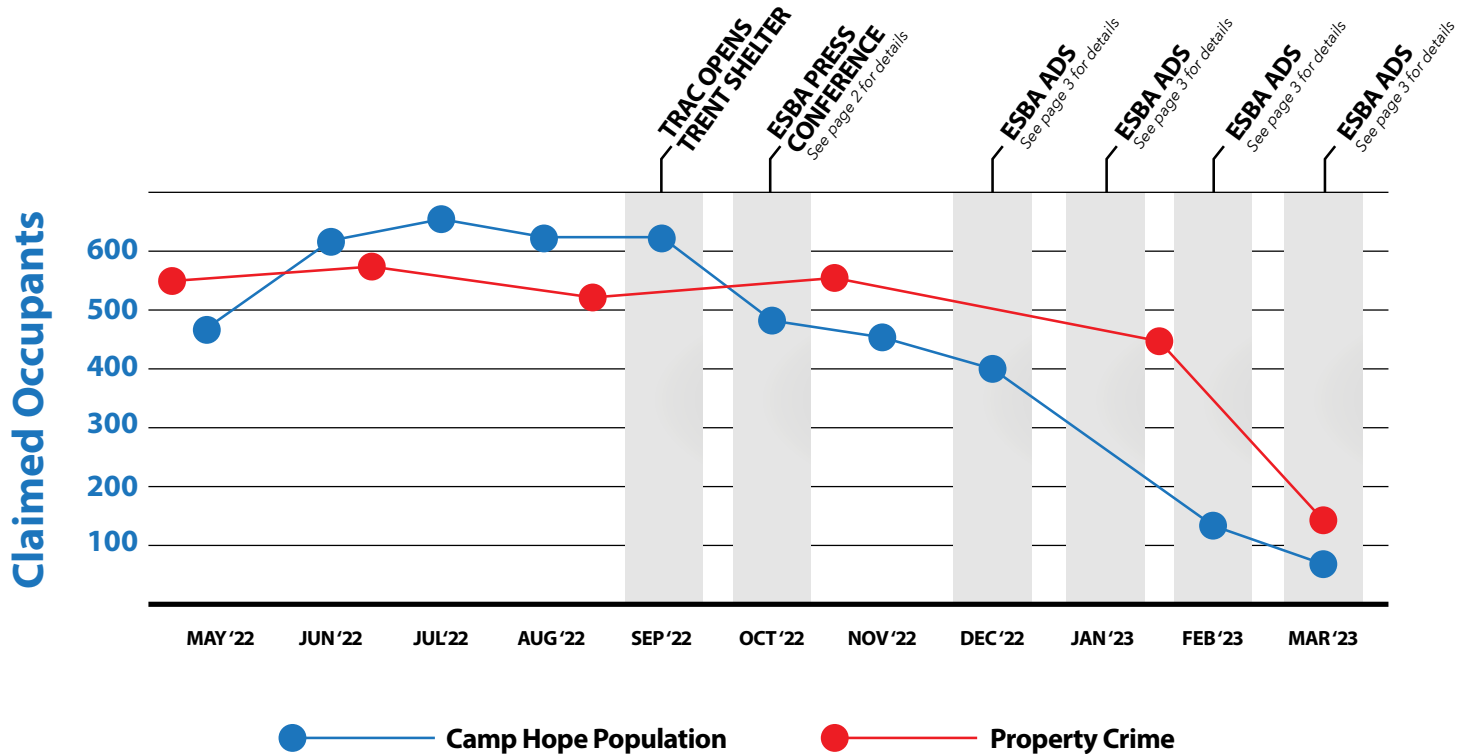


**APRIL 2023**  
Spring Issue

## ESBA'S ACTIONS GET RESULTS Camp Hope's Population and Neighborhood Crime Drops Tremendously



The number of people at Camp Hope have been in decline since ESBA has maintained a steady push to close the illegal encampment. In July of 2022, more than 650 people were residing at Camp Hope.

For the past 15 months the East Central Neighborhood has been facing significant challenges caused by the illegal camp known as Camp Hope. The camp's presence has caused great uncertainty and safety concerns for residents and businesses alike. However, the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) has been actively addressing this issue by raising awareness, demanding action, and advocating for change.

At its peak, Camp Hope had over 650 occupants, which resulted in a surge in crime in the East Central neighborhood. Thanks to ESBA's efforts, including a press conference and ongoing advertising, combined with the opening of the Trent Shelter (also known as TRAC), the camp's population has significantly decreased, leading to a reduction in crime in the area.

As of March 15th, there are only 65 people remaining at the camp, which is a significant improvement. However, there is still more work to be done to ensure that residents receive the support and resources necessary to transition from living in the camp to more stable and secure housing.

ESBA is committed to supporting and promoting the growth, revitalization, and success of businesses in the East Central neighborhood. The association will continue to lobby for the permanent closure of Camp Hope to ensure that the community can thrive and prosper.

### AS OF MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

**65** PEOPLE REMAIN AT CAMP HOPE

**49** TENTS ON THE PROPERTY

**9** RV'S

**1000'S** OF POUNDS OF TRASH

## ESBA Camp Hope Press Conference

### Press Conference Yields Dramatic Decrease In Population And Crime Rates



President of the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) and East Central business owner Doug Trudeau along with Spokane Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, take questions from the audience at the ESBA press conference on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The East Spokane Business Association and community leaders held a press conference demanding an end to the illegal camp, Camp Hope, and all related criminal activity that is detrimental to the residents, businesses, and employees of the East Central Neighborhood. The press conference was attended by various media outlets, including KXLY, KHQ, KREM, The Spokesman-Review, The Inlander, and Range Media.

The East Central Neighborhood, home to over 20,000 citizens and 1800+ businesses, has been heavily impacted

by the illegal activities taking place at Camp Hope. The speakers at the press conference emphasized that families and businesses near Camp Hope are suffering the most from the criminal activity.

The illegal camp has caused numerous problems for the neighborhood, including increased drug use, theft, and violence. The East Spokane Business Association has worked tirelessly to raise awareness to the problem, and the press conference served as an opportunity to demand immediate action.



**Danny Beard**  
Union Gospel Mission  
of Spokane  
Vice President of ESBA



**Jesse Smith**  
Store Manager  
Fred Meyer  
3rd Ave & Thor St



**Michael C. Brown**  
Owner Fresh Soul  
CEO Spokane  
Eastside Reunion



**Kim Crumpacker**  
East Central  
Neighborhood Council  
(ECNC) Secretary



**Doug Schroeder**  
Long Term  
East Central Resident

To view the full press conference visit:  
[esbiz.org](http://esbiz.org)



# Camp Hope Must Go!

Persistent Advertising In The Spokesman-Review Successfully Reduces Camp Hope Population & Crime Through Increased Awareness

## THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

### 'IT'S AN AMERICAN STORY'

Retired professor Bob Bartlett brings attention to tales of 'Triple Nickles,' Black history and WWII heroism in the Pacific Northwest

By Bob Hill

Retired educator Robert L. "Bob" Bartlett watched earlier this month as the nation's focus was directed back to World War II and the Japanese bombing of America with balloons, and an omission also at him.

As parents discussed mysterious and potential enemy objects in the sky, Bartlett, a retired professor who holds a doctorate in leadership studies, turned to a story he's been teaching the public about for nearly a decade. While much of the American public was kept unaware of the existence of the explosives carried across the Pacific by inflexible made of muleberry paper in the early months of 1945, a unit of 100 well-trained, Black paratroopers was being dropped out of the sky in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Montana to search any lines and defend any borders.

They were the 555th Central Postal Directory Battalion, and they were the first all-Black paratrooper unit in the United States military. They called themselves the "Triple Nickles."

**AIRBORNE**

SUNDAY, February 16, 2020

## Diverse economy resilient to recession

Spokane's ability to reinvent itself helps with offsetting effects from economic downturns

By Thomas Clouse

Spokane's economy has made itself diverse of times since the 1920s, from logging and mining to downtown industry and more health care.

The city's economy has been resilient because it has reinvented itself over and over again. It has been a city of reinvention, from logging and mining to downtown industry and more health care.

**INCOME ON SPokane ECONOMY**

TAKING A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE CITY'S EVOLUTION

Spokane's economy has made itself diverse of times since the 1920s, from logging and mining to downtown industry and more health care.

The city's economy has been resilient because it has reinvented itself over and over again. It has been a city of reinvention, from logging and mining to downtown industry and more health care.

## Future uncertain for Ukrainian sisters

Immigration protections running out for refugees who fled war-torn country

By Emma Egan

The weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine have been a roller coaster for many Ukrainians. For two sisters, the future is uncertain.

The weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine have been a roller coaster for many Ukrainians. For two sisters, the future is uncertain.

The weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine have been a roller coaster for many Ukrainians. For two sisters, the future is uncertain.

**WAR IN UKRAINE**

**CITY OKS MOBILE SURVEILLANCE**

**'YEAR OF THE DOG' DEBUTS FRIDAY**

**TIME, STRAWHAT CARRY GO TO WIN**

## CAMP HOPE MUST CLOSE!

It Is Cruel To Allow 80+ Unhoused To Suffer Cold And Unsanitary Conditions.

**ESBA**   
www.esba.biz

## THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

### OLYMPIK TAKES PLACE IN HISTORY

GOVERNOR LAUDS CATALYST AS CRUCIAL STEP IN HOUSING

City approves cap on how much food-delivery services can charge

## A DECADE of GAY MARRIAGE

### Toys begin taking shape on assembly line

## CAMP HOPE MUST CLOSE!

The City Has Added 100's Of Safe And Clean Indoor Beds.

**ESBA** 

## THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

### Federal judge prevents Camp Hope sweep

## RESTORATION HOTEL

### U.S. to announce fusion energy 'breakthrough'

## CAMP HOPE MUST CLOSE!

20,000 East Central Law-Abiding Citizens + 1,800 Businesses Are Suffering Enormous Crime.

**ESBA** 

## ESBA Monthly Meetings Include Guest Speakers

### 2022 Guest Speakers



**Mayor Nadine Woodward**  
Executive Team  
City of Spokane



**Johnnie Perkins**  
Executive Team  
City of Spokane



**Brian Coddington**  
Executive Team  
City of Spokane



**Captain Brad Arleth**  
Police Department  
City of Spokane



**Steve MacDonald**  
Community &  
Economic  
Development  
City of Spokane



**Spencer Gardner**  
City Planning  
City of Spokane



**Karl Otterstrom**  
Spokane Transit  
Authority  
STA



**Ryan Brodwater**  
Spokane Transit  
Authority  
STA



**Mike Gribner**  
WADOT  
NSC Freeway



**Terrance Lynch**  
WADOT  
NSC Freeway



**Tim Thompson**  
City Planning  
City of Spokane



**Marlene Feist**  
Public Works  
City of Spokane



**Andy Billig**  
3rd District Washington  
State Senator  
Senate Majority Leader



**Katy Bruya**  
WTB  
Hello For Good



**Juliet Sinisterra**  
South UDistrict



**Larry Stone**  
ESBA  
Transportation Chair

## Attend ESBA's Monthly Meetings



**Sprague Union Terrace**

- Meetings Are Held On The Fourth Wednesday Of Every Month
- Sprague Union Terrace  
1420 E Sprague Ave, Spokane WA
- 12PM Noon In The Community Room
- All ESBA Members Welcome; Lunch provided



# Transportation

ESBA Lobbies And Gains More Access To Freeways

## BEFORE



WSDOT Original NSC I-90 Trumpet

Thanks to ESBA's efforts, the latest Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) plan now features Altamont Street roundabouts that will help improve traffic flow and reduce accidents, while at the same time gained access to the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) provides a direct connection to the East Central neighborhood from and to the NSC.

## AFTER



WSDOT Current NSC I-90 Trumpet



## Press Release - Redemption Church

### ESBA Pens Press Release For Crime Riddled Church; Leads To Full Press Coverage



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Redemption Church Forced to Move Due to Criminal Activity

"I have witnessed a shift in the fabric of our community, especially immediately surrounding this church, on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and S. Division," Jonathan Bonetti, Ministry Operations Pastor at Redemption Church Spokane states. The church like many businesses in and around the East Central neighborhood has been forced to make a difficult decision. Redemption is listing its landmark building and looking to move due to the rise in crime and criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhood.

Although the details are different, Redemption's story of struggle is one that we at the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) have heard too often from our businesses and our community. In a letter (see the attached letter) penned by Pastor Bonetti to ESBA, Pastor Bonetti reflects on the changing neighborhood, "When I first came on staff here at the church, the Starbucks across the street was a good gauge of the economy and fabric of this area. Vibrant is the word that comes to mind."

As Pastor Bonetti goes on to describe, times have changed. A turning point occurred in July 2021, when shots rang out just 100 feet from their sanctuary during Sunday service. According to

the Pastor a feeling of "helplessness that lingered, growing worse over the years and especially since that day. In 2022: a break-in and theft, a homicide on another Sunday morning (just a block away), and a woman assaulted the following week."

The crime has taken its toll not only on the church's constituency but on the church's finances too. Costs are in the tens of thousands and countless hours are spent on cleanup and security. Pastor Bonetti says, "we are being bled dry", at the end of October 2022, the final straw, "we found out our insurance would not be renewed, as this place is too much of a liability. The new cost to insure this place? Premium increases of over 300% (\$950 to \$3,000 a month)."

"The thought of a church having to install a fence, having to think of the prospect that our families might be assaulted or shot at as they enter our building, thinking the only option must be to move, is frankly a sickening reality. How did it come to this? That is an answer this city's leadership need(s) to provide. Where do we go from here? This is an answer we, with the city's support, need to figure out together," Says Pastor Bonetti.

Redemption Church is located at 212 S. Division Street and Pastor Bonetti can be reached at (509) 290-5565



About ESBA ([www.esba.biz](http://www.esba.biz))

Founded in 2003, the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) is comprised of businesses within the following boundaries: To the North, the railroad tracks between East Ave and Main Ave; to the South, 7th Avenue (East Central Neighborhood) and 2nd Avenue in the South University District; to the East, to Frye Street to the West, to Division Street. At the East Spokane Business Association, our mission is clear. To support the East Spokane Business District by preserving and improving its unique business, educational, and commercial interests. East Central is the largest neighborhood for business with over 1800 businesses located within the neighborhood's boundaries.

Read the full Press Release at <https://esbiz.org/category/news/>

"I have witnessed a shift in the fabric of our community, especially immediately surrounding this church, on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and S. Division." Jonathan Bonetti, Ministry Operations Pastor at Redemption Church Spokane states. The church like many businesses in and around the East Central neighborhood has been forced to make a difficult decision. Redemption is listing its landmark building and looking to move due to the rise in crime and criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhood.

Although the details are different, Redemption's story of struggle is one that we at the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) have heard too often from our businesses and our community.

The crime has taken its toll not only on the church's constituency but on the church's finances too. Costs are in the tens of thousands and countless hours are spent on cleanup and security. Pastor Bonetti says "we are being bled dry". At the end of October 2022, the final straw, "we found out our insurance would not be renewed, as this place is too much of a liability. The new cost to insure this place? Premium increases of over 300% (\$950 to \$3,000 a month)."

"The thought of a church having to install a fence, having to think of the prospect that our families might be assaulted or shot at as they enter our building, thinking the only option must be to move, is frankly a sickening reality. How did it come to this? That is an answer this city's leadership need(s) to provide. Where do we go from here? This is an answer we, with the city's support, need to figure out together." Says Pastor Bonetti.



Growing crime and drug activity forces Redemption Church Spokane to move out of neighborhood- KREM News (<https://tinyurl.com/9zakx2xb>)



'Are we safe as a congregation?': Crime pushes Spokane Redemption out of downtown- KXLY News (<https://tinyurl.com/5xan4z6d>)



Redemption Church says crime is forcing them out of their downtown Spokane location- KHQ News (<https://tinyurl.com/3ekd884e>)

***"The final straw, we found out our insurance would not be renewed, as this place is too much of a liability."***

- Pastor Jonathan Bonetti  
Redemption Church

# ESBA Lobbies For Police Precinct Relocation

City Council Creates Controversy



Mayor Woodward holds press conference announcing the move of the East Central Police Precinct from the second floor of the former nunnery at Saint Ann Catholic Church, a location not nearly as accessible to the public, to the former East Side Branch Library.

The former East Side Branch Library Building is now being occupied by officers and on-site behavioral health resources. However, the move has been met with opposition from several members of the city council, including Lori Kinnear and Betsy Wilkerson from East Central. ESBA is actively fighting to keep the precinct

where it currently is. Despite this, the city council has passed nonbinding resolutions urging the city administration to reconsider the location of the precinct, with one suggesting East Sprague Avenue as a potential site. Mayor Woodward has responded by stating that the East Central police precinct will remain where it is.

## Continue To Make A Difference

Recruit New Members



**INVITE A LOCAL  
BUSINESS TO JOIN  
TODAY!**

To become a member, simply have them visit our website at:  
**<https://esbiz.org/annual-membership/>**  
and fill out the membership form



## ESBA Board Members



**Barbara Woodbridge**  
President



**Danny Beard**  
Vice President



**George Demakis**  
Treasurer



**Jake Swartz**  
Secretary



**Doug Trudeau**  
Past President



**Jim Hanley**  
Member at Large



**Larry Stone**  
Transportation & Dinner  
Committees Chair



**Cyndi Fridye**  
Member at Large



**LaVerne Biel**  
Executive Director