

July 14, 2008

OUR CUSTOMERS
SPOKANE, WA 99224

RE: NEW PERMIT APPLICATIONS & FEES

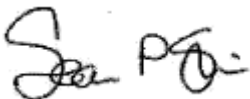
After a year-long, independent analysis to determine the true cost of all development services involved in the review, inspection, and processing of permits, the City Council approved a recommended fee increase that will go into affect on August 4, 2008. A link to the fee study summary can be found at www.buildingspokane.org.

For Building Services, this will be the first significant rate adjustment since 1986 and will offset rising costs to ensure tax dollars are not needed to help cover the expenditures associated with providing development services on building permits.

With the goal of promoting building safety through inspection and review; and of encouraging development, the department strives to keep both permit fees and the costs of services low. Thus, to minimize the frequency and amount of fee increases, the department has made and will continue to make every effort to implement cost cutting measures and develop efficiency improvements. In the past this has included everything from staff reductions to savings in paper by no longer printing permit copies for the inspectors.

The most significant change for homebuilders will be the addition of a review fee that will be required to be paid at plan submittal. If you wish to receive a copy of the new Building Permit Fee Table, please feel free to contact me at sshields@spokanecity.org. Your understanding of the difficult decisions made is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



Sean P. Shields
Permit Coordinator