



SAFESTREETS

Feb. 11, 2016

Everett Police to hire two embedded social workers

EVERETT - The City of Everett is hiring two embedded social workers to join the Everett Police Department's Community Outreach Enforcement Team, fulfilling a commitment Mayor Stephanson made when he announced his [Safe Streets plan](#) in September 2015.

The main purpose of these positions is to help those on the streets navigate the often-complicated treatment and housing systems and connect them with the resources that they need. The social workers will cultivate contacts and establish positive relationships among various law enforcement agencies, treatment providers, service organizations, faith-based groups, shelters and local governments.

Bringing embedded social workers onto the police team was one of the recommendations made by the [Community Streets Initiative task force](#). The Everett Police Department added their first embedded social worker, Lauren Rainbow, in Oct. 2015, through a partnership with Snohomish County Human Services.

Rainbow has spent hundreds of hours with Everett's chronically homeless citizens, and has connected many of them with the resources they need to get off the street.

Everett Police Captain John DeRousse explains that adding Rainbow to the team has helped the department change the way they approach such issues as mental illness, addiction and homelessness.

"Lauren has built trust with those on the streets and developed resources in the region that help provide short-term housing, detox, clothing and financial donations and other services that benefit this population," DeRousse said.

DeRousse explained that there is now an "in-house subject matter expert" to fill the gap between the police department and social service agencies to help Everett's most vulnerable citizens make progress toward a brighter future.

"Through collaborative efforts with social service agencies in our area, the embedded social

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For more information on the Community Streets Initiative, visit www.everettwa.gov/streetsinitiative.

For more information on the Safe Streets Plan, visit www.everettwa.gov/safestreets.

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worker has established synergistic relationships that have improved communications, idea sharing, and efficiency in regards to our homelessness efforts,” DeRousse said.

The new social workers are expected to join the department in late spring.

Learn more about the [Community Streets Initiative](#) or the [Everett Safe Streets Plan](#).

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