



SAFESTREETS

Jan. 14, 2016

City and County team tour Plymouth Housing facility in Seattle

EVERETT - The City of Everett is moving forward quickly to meet Mayor Ray Stephanson's goal to provide permanent supportive housing for Everett's most vulnerable homeless citizens. In recent months, City staff has been meeting regularly to learn from other communities about how to expand the "Housing First" model in our community.

"We have been working very closely with Snohomish County and housing providers to explore the most efficient way to house our first 20 homeless citizens and lay the groundwork for a new facility," said Deputy City Attorney David Hall, who is working on the City's housing efforts. "Our collaborative relationships are an outgrowth of the Streets Initiative task force, and we were excited to join County leadership to learn about Plymouth's impressive housing efforts."

On a windy day last month, City staff, County Council representatives and County staff visited one of Plymouth's 13 buildings and learned how a group of concerned church members became one of the largest providers of very low-income housing in Washington.

"We are hearing again and again that the Housing First approach is the tool for a population most challenging to house," said Hall, "and that has been Plymouth's focus."

From its modest beginnings, Plymouth has grown to an impressive organization with over 1,000 residents and a \$19 million annual operating budget.

Plymouth Housing Group preserves, develops and manages safe supportive housing for those who have often failed in housing in the past, or who cannot access decent, affordable housing due to poverty, disabilities or criminal record. The City/County group learned about Plymouth's model for funding, services and governance, and then toured the Langdon and Anne Simons Senior Apartments. Completed in 2008, the Langdon and Anne Simons Senior Apartments are 92 studio apartments designed for seniors and military service veterans (55+).

Plymouth subscribes to the "Housing First" philosophy, operating on the principle that people cannot improve their lives until they have a safe, stable place to live. Residents get "wrap

Learn more:

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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around” support services to address the issues that led to homelessness. It costs Plymouth, on average, \$14,000 per year to provide permanent supportive housing, which is significantly less than the costs incurred in jails, courts and emergency rooms.

“Plymouth showed us once again that creating these housing opportunities is both the most effective approach and can also save taxpayers’ dollars,” said Hall. “They showed us that there is a clear path to bringing similar housing to Everett and Snohomish County.

You can learn more about [Plymouth Housing](#) at the City’s second Housing First Forum on Feb. 1, 2016, at the Historic Everett Theater at 6:30 pm. In addition to Plymouth Housing, you will also hear from a panel of leaders from Housing First efforts in Tacoma, Spokane, and around Snohomish County.

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

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