Mayoral Directive 2018-01: Youth, gun violence and gang reduction initiative

A Mayoral Directive charging City staff, under the leadership of the Police Department, to coordinate with other governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, schools and the community to develop programs, identify resources, and initiate actions to reduce youth violence, firearm crimes and gang membership in the community and to provide positive alternative pathways for Everett’s youth.

In 2017, the City of Everett experienced a significant increase in youth gang-related and firearm-related crime.

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 2017, there were 198 gang-related offenses reported in Everett, which constitutes a 75 percent increase over 2016. During that same period, of the 123 police reports generated that were coded as ‘gang-related,’ Everett Police arrested 80 individuals; 84 percent were age 21 or younger.

2017 also saw a significant increase in drive-by shooting incidents in Everett. From Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2017, there were 23 drive-by shootings and 67 shots-fired incidents within the city limits. Nearly 51 percent of the shots-fired calls were coded as ‘gang-related’ or ‘unknown’ if gang-related. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 2017, 112 firearms were stolen due to burglary or theft, including 57 firearms stolen in 15 separate burglary events.

The Everett Police Department has dedicated significant resources to address youth, gang and firearm violence and made multiple arrests of known gang members for violent crimes in 2017. The department also provides several youth-focused engagement programs, including school resource officers and athletic and educational programs. However, the recent increase in youth violence and gang activity is a significant concern for Everett Police and City leaders, and many residents have expressed their ongoing concerns over youth, gang and firearm-related violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cassie Franklin, Mayor of Everett, hereby direct City staff to pursue the following six initiatives:

**Initiative 1. Develop and implement a comprehensive gang reduction/youth violence initiative focusing on prevention and intervention of gang involvement among Everett’s youth population**

An interdepartmental team, led by the Police Department, will explore successful gang prevention and intervention models from other communities and solicit input about local needs.
and opportunities to develop a pilot prevention/intervention program that can be implemented in Everett.

The pilot program will leverage new and existing resources and build or strengthen partnerships with existing community organizations in an effort to prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs and to provide alternative options for those who may already be engaged in gang-related activity.

A. By March 23, 2018, staff will have met with the gang response community advisory group (see initiative 3) to solicit input about existing resources and opportunities in Everett, as well as current community needs and gaps in resources and programs

B. By April 13, 2018, City staff will have identified committed community partners willing to support and participate in a pilot project to evaluate the prevention/intervention program

C. By May 11, 2018, the City and identified community partners will launch the youth/gang violence prevention/intervention program

D. By Nov. 9, 2018, initial pilot program results will be evaluated for effectiveness and shared with gang response community advisory group members, who will make a recommendation on future of program

Initiative 2. Evaluate current gang enforcement and suppression strategies and consider reorganization or redeployment of existing resources to more effectively combat gang and youth violence on our streets

The Police Department will evaluate how existing department resources are being utilized to determine most effective deployment of those resources. The department will consider the feasibility of establishing a standalone, proactive Gang Response Unit that includes not only suppression efforts, but also prevention programs. Any such unit would adopt modern policing and prevention strategies to adequately address the youth, firearm and gang violence in Everett.

A proposal on a recommended resource deployment model shall be provided to my office no later than April 6, 2018. Enforcement and prevention program data will be incorporated into a broader City-wide initiative to make data more easily accessible to the public.

Initiative 3. Solicit input from and collaborate with community partners on Everett’s youth, gun violence and gang reduction initiatives

Community members who experience gun violence and gang-related activity in their neighborhoods can provide valuable input to City policymakers on effective strategies to reduce gun and gang violence. Creating a forum for these community members to engage City staff and contribute to the development of long-term strategies and programs is vital to the success of any initiative.

A gang response community advisory group comprised of community members and subject matter experts will be created to provide input to City staff and officials on resources and programs that they believe would be most effective in their community.

*Mayoral Directive 2018-01
Issued Jan. 11, 2018*
A. By Feb. 2, 2018, City staff will solicit community members to participate in a gang response community advisory group.
B. By Feb. 16, 2018, five to seven community members will be identified to participate as a member of a gang response community advisory group.
C. By March 2, 2018, the gang response community advisory group will have convened for at least one meeting.

Initiative 4. Identify and establish a firearm safety campaign designed to encourage the safe storage and retention of legally owned and possessed firearms

The Everett Police Department, in partnership with the City’s Communications and Community Engagement Team, will develop a program aimed at reducing the number of stolen firearms associated with burglaries, thefts and vehicle prowls.

The City will seek to identify local business organizations and/or funding resources to partner with the Police Department to establish a gunlock/safe storage program that provides gunlocks or safe storage resources to firearm owners in Everett at either no or reduced cost. City staff shall report to me no later than April 6, 2018.

A. By March 30, 2018, City staff will have met with the gang response community advisory group in order to solicit input on a public education campaign aimed at safe storage of legally owned firearms for residents of Everett
B. By May 11, 2018, City will launch public education campaign

Initiative 5. Engage Everett’s juvenile justice partners in order to evaluate detention policies and sentencing practices for juveniles arrested and/or convicted of gang-related crimes

City staff will meet with juvenile justice system partners, including detention officials, prosecutors and judges, to discuss, research and evaluate current juvenile justice system practices in Snohomish County. City staff will explore and collaborate with these entities in order to determine the most effective practices that strike a balance between the importance of rehabilitating gang-related juvenile offenders and the overall safety of our community at large. This initiative is expected to be a multi-year effort; City staff shall report to me with initial recommendations no later than May 25, 2018.

Initiative 6. Explore possible local, state and federal funding resources to support Everett’s gang and youth violence prevention, intervention and suppression efforts.

Depending upon the scope and scale of programs developed by Everett, ongoing funding may be required in order to sustain any positive outcomes achieved through such efforts. In addition to any local funding sources that may exist, staff will explore state and federal grant opportunities or other innovative funding mechanisms that might exist to help maintain the necessary resources for any program(s). City staff shall report back to me no later than April 6, 2018.

Mayoral Directive 2018-01
Issued Jan. 11, 2018
Inquiries regarding this Mayoral Directive should be directed to Meghan Pembroke of the Everett Mayor’s Office.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2018.

Cassie Franklin
Mayor, City of Everett