Mayoral Directive 2018-04: Safe Streets programs

A Mayoral Directive charging City staff, under the leadership of the Public Health and Safety Director, to coordinate and partner with other governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, service providers, schools and the community to continue the City’s efforts to address homelessness, addiction, mental illness and crime through the comprehensive Safe Streets plan.

The Safe Streets plan includes programs in the categories of housing, diversion, outreach and enforcement, and community education and engagement. Under this directive, the City will add a fifth initiative focused on using data analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the City’s programs and ensure our limited resources are allocated appropriately.

Everett residents and businesses have expressed frustrations about the visible effects of street-level social issues in our community. There are complex factors that contribute to these challenges, including a lack of affordable housing in our region, insufficient treatment capacity, and the national opioid epidemic.

- The 2017 Point in Time Count showed there were 515 unsheltered individuals in Snohomish County, including 313 who were chronically homeless.
- In 2017, the City cleaned up more than 80 unauthorized encampments on public property, including spending more than $100,000 to clean up a large, recurring encampment along Smith Avenue.
- There is a need for supportive employment: for example, while the unemployment rate in Snohomish County is currently 3.1 percent, the unemployment rate for those engaged in public mental health services in Washington State is almost 87 percent.
- In 2016, Snohomish County accounted for nearly 1 of every 6 heroin deaths in Washington, and 8 deaths in the first half of 2017 were linked to synthetic opioids, like fentanyl. Everett officers have reversed 71 overdoses using Naloxone since 2015.

Focusing on these complex social issues means we must remove the stigma of addiction and mental illness. Keeping dignity and human connection at the forefront of our programs makes recovery possible and promotes public safety. The quality of life for all Everett residents is a mayoral priority and the street-level issues must be addressed.

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

Initiative 1. Housing: Partner with Snohomish County and housing providers to advocate for and help facilitate future supportive housing projects and to expand shelter capacity.
Housing is the critical foundation for successful treatment, education, employment and social connection. Community members should not have to live outside because they do not have access to safe and affordable housing. An interdepartmental team, led by the Public Health and Safety Director, will work with Snohomish County, the Everett Housing Authority and other partners to support and coordinate a pipeline of supportive and affordable housing developments and to increase our temporary and emergency shelter capacity.

A. On an ongoing basis, City staff will continue to participate with Snohomish County and other housing providers on collaborative efforts to support and coordinate a pipeline of supportive and affordable housing developments, including working with providers to identify potential locations for future projects.

B. By May 11, 2018, City staff will meet with shelter providers and funders to develop a plan to identify and address existing barriers to shelter participation and recommend possible paths to expand shelter capacity in Everett and Snohomish County.

C. By June 1, 2018, City staff will prepare a draft policy for City Council consideration outlining City procedures for responding to unauthorized encampments on public property and individuals living in cars, trailers, RVs, and other forms of substandard housing.

D. By Oct. 1, 2018, the City will implement a plan to keep the cold-weather shelter system in Everett open continuously from Nov. 1, 2018 through March 1, 2019.

Initiative 2. Diversion: Partner with providers to support, promote and expand education and employment opportunities for individuals who have experienced homelessness, substance-use disorders, and/or mental illness.

In addition to housing and treatment, individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental illness benefit from support as they strive to reenter the workforce, access educational opportunities, and connect with the greater community. Diversion programs, such as work crew, provide initial on-ramps to employment that uplift participants and give back to our city. Connecting employers with individuals who are well suited to job opportunities is also consistent with the City’s overall economic development goals.

A. By March 16, 2018, City staff, including the Prosecutor’s Office and Police Department, in coordination with the Municipal Court, will work with HopeWorks, which manages the Safe Streets Work Crew program, to develop a plan to increase the number of referrals to the work crew program and to increase the percentage of those who successfully complete the program.

B. By June 15, 2018, the Public Health and Safety Director will work with City staff and HopeWorks to expand the work crew target clean-up areas to at least one new area of the city.

C. By May 18, 2018, the Public Health and Safety Director will work with other departments and community partners to develop a pilot program that provides supportive employment and educational opportunities for individuals identified through Safe Streets programs, including the Community Outreach and Enforcement Team (COET), Safe Streets Work Crew, and the Mental Health Alternatives Program.

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D. On an ongoing basis, City staff will collaborate with Snohomish County, supportive employment providers, educational institutions, and local businesses to enhance and promote programs that connect individuals with employment and educational opportunities.

**Initiative 3. Outreach and Enforcement: Develop a pilot program to streamline access to medication-assisted treatment for COET contacts and partner with Snohomish County through the Multi-Agency Coordination effort to expand prevention and intervention programs.**

Addiction is a disease that impacts all of us, but there is hope. It can be effectively treated through medicine, counseling, social support and community compassion. The City will only make significant progress on addressing the opioid epidemic by partnering with others working collaboratively on this issue. City staff will also continue our efforts to reduce emergency response calls related to homelessness, addiction, and mental illness.

A. By Feb. 16, 2018, City staff will establish a pilot program with Ideal Options, a suboxone provider, to streamline access to medication-assisted treatment for individuals with opioid-use disorder who come in contact with the Community Outreach and Enforcement Team (COET.)

B. By July 6, 2018, the Fire Chief will review alternative-response models for calls involving homelessness, addiction, and mental illness and develop a pilot program for Everett Fire using an alternative-response model. The Fire Chief will report initial results to me and the City Council by Jan. 11, 2019.

C. On an ongoing basis, City staff will continue to work in alignment with Snohomish County’s Multi-Agency Coordination effort to ensure county-wide collaboration, efficiencies, and greater positive impact for residents in addressing the opioid epidemic.

D. On an ongoing basis, City staff will facilitate training and access to Naloxone for City employees and residents who interact with the public or high-risk residents.

**Initiative 4. Education and Engagement: Provide updates to the community on our progress to address street-level social issues and develop targeted educational campaigns and training in response to community needs.**

The Public Health and Safety Director, in partnership with the City’s Communications, Marketing and Engagement teams, will develop public outreach and education programs that provide information and relevant training to community members, City staff, and professionals working in this area. Education is the best tool to effectively respond to complex social issues and addressing stigma.

A. By Feb. 1, 2018, City staff will produce a pamphlet with a list of all treatment and housing providers in Everett, as well as ways that individuals can seek support. The COET unit will develop a plan to distribute the pamphlet to individuals on the street.

B. By Feb. 28, 2018, the City’s Communications, Marketing and Engagement teams will create a monthly Safe Streets email update to share information about Safe Streets efforts.

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C. By April 30, 2018, the City will host at least two additional 4-hour crisis de-escalation training programs for community groups through the Beyond the Streets Training Series.
D. On an ongoing basis, City staff will continue to partner with and support stakeholder and community groups.

**Initiative 5. Evaluation and Funding: Improve tracking and analysis of Safe Streets programs and City spending on street-level social issues.**

The Public Health and Safety Director, in partnership with the City’s Finance team, the Police and Fire departments and Planning, will develop tools to track and analyze data on our Safe Streets programs, evaluate our spending and program effectiveness, and provide City teams and the community with up-to-date information. We will also look for new funding sources to sustain Safe Streets programs on a long-term basis.

A. By April 1, 2018, make data on Safe Streets programs available on City website and update data on a quarterly basis at a minimum. Provide a progress report, including any recommended program modifications, to me and the City Council every six months at a minimum.
B. By May 11, 2018 City staff will review two years of Chronic Utilizer Alternative Response Team (CHART) data to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and design further interventions that reduce contacts with the criminal justice and emergency response systems.
C. On an ongoing basis, collect and share opioid-related data in partnership with the Snohomish County Multi-Agency Coordination response.
D. On an ongoing basis, track and evaluate Safe Streets spending across the City and report quarterly to me and the City Council.
E. By Sept. 1, 2018, identify new funding sources that could be leveraged to achieve the goals of the Safe Streets plan.

These initiatives do not replace existing programs or work currently underway through the Safe Streets plan.

Inquiries regarding this Mayoral Directive should be directed to Meghan Pembroke of the Everett Mayor’s Office.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2018.

[Cassie Franklin]
Mayor, City of Everett

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