



SAFESTREETS

Dec. 10, 2015

Outreach, emphasis patrols continue at Smith Avenue

EVERETT - Everett Police Department's street outreach and emphasis patrols continued in the Smith Avenue area last week. Over the course of three days, officers made contact with 44 individuals and businesses, and arrested six people for drug offenses.

Chief Dan Templeman said last week's patrols also underscore a growing problem of debris and hazards at sites like the Smith Avenue area.

"Our officers routinely have to call out our public works crews to clean up piles of trash and other items from Smith Avenue," said Templeman. "We know that well-intentioned groups and individuals are dropping off food and other items directly to those living on the streets. Unfortunately, that has led to a pile-up of debris, which negatively affects nearby businesses and residents, and has created hazards in these areas."

He said City public works crews clean up the Smith Avenue area at least twice a week, and have removed dump-truck loads of trash.

"We've also learned from our conversations with those on the streets that these direct donations can decrease their motivation to seek services and treatment," said Templeman. "We are fortunate to have a community that wants to help those in need, and we encourage people to donate to the many local organizations who are providing services to our homeless citizens." The City [maintains an online list of service organizations](#) that support those on the streets in Everett.

Below, we've included summaries of several recent EPD operations in the Smith Avenue area:

- On Dec. 1, officers arrested two people for alleged drug offenses and spoke with five people, including two who agreed to meet with EPD's embedded social worker. Officers spoke with a man who said he has been working with Catholic Community Services to find stable housing, and expected to be in an apartment and preparing for drug treatment by the end of the week. The officers talked with him about what happens when people with new places let their friends stay with them, often resulting in losing their housing. The man agreed and plans to not allow any drug users or dealers stay with him.

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.

Sign up for email updates at www.everettwa.gov/notifyme.

- On Dec. 2, social worker Lauren Rainbow and EPD officers spent several hours in the Smith Avenue area, and were able to identify two individuals who were interested in seeking services with Lauren's help. Unfortunately, the majority of individuals contacted that day were not interested in treatment or other resources.
- On Dec. 3, officers arrested four people for alleged drug offenses, including smoking meth on the sidewalk. At least two of the individuals reported that they were not homeless; one said she had come to the area to visit friends. All of the people contacted by officers that evening declined offers of treatment or other services.

The City's [Safe Streets plan](#) brings together police, prosecutors, and social workers in a coordinated approach to connect people with services and housing, and to hold individuals accountable for criminal activity. Our goal is to continue to effectively balance outreach and enforcement in affected areas throughout the city and at each stage of the criminal justice system.

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

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