



SAFESTREETS

April 12, 2017

City's Safe Streets work crew program continues to provide low-level offenders with diversion alternative

EVERETT – It has now been one year since the [Safe Streets work crew program](#) got underway, and it continues to promote positive life changes for the participants involved. Led by retired Everett Police Bike Patrol Officer Jack Jessup, this diversion program provides an alternative to prosecution and jail time for low-level offenders. We [recently released a video](#) featuring Jessup and participants in the program.

Since its start as a pilot program in April 2016, there have been more than 125 referrals from law enforcement and municipal court. The Community Outreach and Enforcement Team (COET) have continued to refer participants who are eager to work off their criminal citations in this volunteer program. Between April and December 2016, 42 individuals successfully completed the program, and crews picked up more than 700 large bags of garbage.

Once they commit to the program, participants are tasked with such work as picking up garbage, sweeping the streets, returning grocery carts and cleaning up areas affected by street populations. The participants start down by the Everett Gospel Mission, and work their way toward the program's headquarters, located at 2000 Hewitt.

The crew breaks midday for lunch and utilizes the office as a classroom. Jessup uses this time to mentor and motivate the crew through conversation and videos. He also works with area social workers and resources to get the participants connected with services.

After the break, they continue to move further north along Broadway. Depending on the offense, participants usually work off their charges in 4-8 sessions.

For more information on [work crew](#), and other diversion programs, [please visit our website](#). The [Safe Streets plan](#) is a comprehensive, balanced approach that focuses on housing, diversion, and outreach and enforcement to address street-level social issues in Everett.

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.