



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mayor Franklin issues mayoral directive to reduce youth, gang and gun violence in Everett** **Initiatives include prevention, enforcement and community engagement**

EVERETT – Mayor Cassie Franklin this morning issued a [mayoral directive](#) to address Everett’s growing challenge of gang and youth violence, as well as firearm crimes.

“Reducing youth and gang violence is the top public safety priority of my administration,” said Franklin. “Our community members who live in areas affected by gang activity tell us they don’t feel safe. Families tell us they don’t know where to get help when their children are struggling. We are seeing serious – even deadly – crimes committed by kids, and that is simply unacceptable.”

Everett has experienced a significant increase in gang activity and gun-related crimes, much of it involving teens and young adults. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 2017:

- 198 gang-related offenses were reported in Everett – a 75 percent increase over 2016.
- Of the 123 police reports generated that were coded as ‘gang-related,’ Everett Police arrested 80 individuals; 84 percent were age 21 or younger.
- 23 drive-by shootings and 67 shots-fired incidents were reported within the city limits.
- 112 firearms were stolen due to burglary or theft, including 57 firearms stolen in 15 separate burglary events.

Franklin’s [directive](#) outlines six initiatives that balance prevention and intervention programs with targeted enforcement. There are also initiatives designed to engage communities affected by gang violence and a public education campaign encouraging gun safety.

“The directive builds on the great enforcement and engagement work already being done by our officers and on the partnerships we’ve developed with families and nonprofits in these communities,” said Franklin. “I’ve also directed our City team to work with our juvenile justice system partners to take a closer look at our current practices to ensure we’re striking the right balance between rehabilitation and community safety.”

Under the directive, Everett Police and City staff will pursue six initiatives:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive gang reduction/youth violence initiative focusing on prevention and intervention of gang involvement among Everett's youth population
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
3. Solicit input from and collaborate with community partners on Everett's youth, gun violence and gang reduction initiatives
4. Identify and establish a firearm safety campaign designed to encourage the safe storage and retention of legally owned and possessed firearms
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
6. Explore possible local, state and federal funding resources to support Everett's gang and youth violence prevention, intervention and suppression efforts.

Each initiative includes timelines for implementation or reporting, and Franklin expects to see progress on each goal by this spring.

“This is more than just quality of life, this is a life-and-death issue,” said Franklin. “It’s absolutely critical that our community make progress, and this directive puts us on that path.”

The full directive is available on the City website: [everettwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12856](http://everettwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12856).

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