



Mayoral directive 2023-01: Violence prevention and reduction

Public safety is the number one concern of this administration and combating the increase in violent crime in our community is the top priority. The frequency of violent acts throughout the city is alarming and it has impacts and consequences for our city that extend far beyond those that are directly impacted. Violent crime erodes the public's sense of safety and security; it places our community at risk of injury, has major costs in terms of medical care and lost productivity, increases the risk of developing a chronic illness, limits business growth and success and can slow community progress.

Over the past few years, the City of Everett, under Chief Templeman and my leadership, has prioritized public safety and quality of life for all residents, businesses and visitors. Although crime rates have fluctuated since 2018, over the past two years, there has been an increase in violent crimes and gang¹ activity.

In 2021, our city saw significant increases in reports of shots fired, drive-by shootings, firearm theft and gang-related cases. These trends continued in 2022, with a 41% increase in shots fired calls and a 33% increase in firearm thefts. In mid-December alone, there were four separate shooting incidents in a 24-hour period that resulted in one death and four injuries. Despite ongoing efforts to curb this violence, it's persisting, and we cannot let it continue.

As a city, we must prioritize addressing violent crime in our community and ensure Everett residents and visitors feel safe in our city, anywhere and anytime.

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

¹ The term "gang" is used in many different ways. It can evoke different images and stereotypes for people and often has a racialized connotation. The media and the public have a looser definition of what constitutes a "gang" than law enforcement, who rely on the legal parameters as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, making no assumptions about the race, ethnicity, gender or other identity-related factors of participants.

1. Initiative 1: Reallocate resources to establish a violent crime unit to address and reduce violent crime in the community.

- a. Using our experience as part of a recent regional violent crime unit, develop a plan to transform the existing Gang Response Unit into a violent crime unit, which will have a broader mission and resources dedicated to the City's response and investigation of violent crimes.
- b. Explore evidence-based best practices and continue research on comparable units and efforts.
- c. Launch the Violent Crime Unit.

2. Initiative 2: Develop and launch community violence prevention and response programs in partnership with community organizations.

- a. Determine the City's needs for a violence prevention and response program and identify community organizations focused on community violence prevention that could be potential partners to lead this work.
- b. Establish a public-private partnership with a community organization to develop a community violence prevention and response program focused on intervention, prevention and restoration.
- c. The City and the identified community organization will launch the community violence prevention and response program.
- d. Promote the safe storage of firearms for lawful firearm owners.
- e. Host events that allow community members to voluntarily turn in unwanted firearms for destruction.
- f. Explore potential partnerships with local school districts to create an anti-gun violence/ violence prevention curriculum for area youth.

3. Initiative 3: Support the changes needed at all levels of government to prevent gun violence.

- a. The City of Everett will support innovative policies to prevent gun violence including restricting access to semi-automatic weapons; requiring a permit to purchase firearms; extending purchase requirements to all firearms; expanding



existing safeguards to include prohibitions on firearms in more public spaces; restoring local authority to address gun safety; and investing in community and public education around gun safety and violence prevention. ([Alliance for Gun Responsibility Policy Agenda](#))

- b. If existing legislation preserving the State’s authority over gun-control is amended to give local jurisdictions the ability to consider measures that extend beyond the existing state laws, an interdepartmental team will be assembled to explore opportunities to strengthen current gun-related ordinances.
- c. Continue work with the Mayors and Business Leaders for Public Safety coalition to develop innovative and strategic policies to address the publics’ and business owners’ concerns about public safety.
- d. The City of Everett will work with the Mayors and Business Leaders for Public Safety coalition and other local leaders and partners to address unlawful possession of firearms, violent crime and repeat offenders.

4. Initiative 4: Remain a leader on pursuing firearm surrender orders via the court system.

- a. Continue efforts to train officers on Extreme Risk Protection Orders and other related firearm surrender orders that temporarily restrict access to guns for individuals determined to be at an elevated risk of harming themselves or others.
- b. Aggressively pursue Extreme Risk Protection Orders and other related firearm surrender orders via the court system, when appropriate.

5. Initiative 5: Explore new and innovative sources of funding and strengthen partnerships to address violent crimes.

- a. Strengthen regional information sharing partnerships and collaborate with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crime, with a focus on addressing repeat offenders.
- b. Explore local, state or federal grant opportunities to fund violence prevention, interruption and response programs.
- c. Explore and pursue public-private partnerships and seek out any potential, new funding options to support this work to reduce crime.



Staff will provide regular updates to me on progress, challenges and any metrics used to gauge impact and success.

Dated this 9th day of March 2023



Cassie Franklin
Mayor, City of Everett

