

Waits Motel timeline:

- March 2022: 16 calls for service
- April 2022: 5 calls for service
- May 2022: 13 calls for service
- June 2022: 24 calls for service
- July 2022: 21 calls for service
- August 2022: Chief of Police sent a notice and demand letter to property owner stating that the Chief has determined the property is a Chronic Nuisance Property under EMC 9.64. This requires cease and desist nuisance activities. (Note: 16 calls for service in August)
- September – December 2022: Calls remained elevated and there were numerous serious incidents at the property in the following months, including overdoses, drug busts and assaults.
 - September 2022: 25 calls for service
 - October 2022: 19 calls for service
 - November 2022: 18 calls for service
 - December 2022: 9 calls for service
- Early 2023: Calls remained elevated (January: 18, February: 18, March: 19)
- February 15, 2023: Everett Fire Dept. conducted an inspection on the property and found multiple violations including lacking a manual pull fire alarm system and all 3 smoke alarms in units that were tested were not operational.
- February 27, 2023: Washington State Dept. of Health conducted an inspection on the Waits Motel. They were only provided access to one room (#3) out of 24 and multiple violations were found including no evidence of a smoke detector.
- March 8, 2023: City approached owner to negotiate sale.
- March 2023: Snohomish County Health Department issued a Notice of Potential Chemical Contamination. This notice was provided to the property manager and mailed to the owner, EPD and WA DOH.

- April 2023: Snohomish County Health Department issued a Health Officer's Order No. 23-008 prohibiting use and requiring decontamination of units 7, 8, 14 and 15.
- May 2023: Appraisal completed. *Note: the appraisal is not subject to public disclosure. It's exempt pursuant to RCW 42.56.260(1)(a).*
- May 19, 2023: Appraisal and draft purchase and sale provided to owner (*note: if seller had signed, the contract would have done before Council.*)
- Mid 2023: Between April and July, service calls do decrease (April: 11, May: 4, June: 6, July: 5). *Note: Calls have decreased in the past as well, but it was always temporary.*
- Early July 2023: Police investigate a report of potential underaged prostitution, however determine female was 22 years old. Also in early July, police take a report regarding a past potential sexual assault of a minor occurring at the property.
- July 6, 2023: Chief signs declaration regarding Waits Motel and Mayor signs an "Executive Determination" that Waits Motel is a threat to public health, safety and welfare.
- July 12, 2023: the owner and Elah Valley LLC (associated with motel manager) signed purchase and sale agreement for \$2 million. No money down, but \$51k earnest money was due Aug. 11, 2023. Unclear if buyer had money to close. Also, the owner submits letter to Council stating decontamination had occurred.
- July 12, 2023: City Council adopted resolution declaring Waits Motel constitutes neighborhood blight and that acquisition is necessary to eliminate neighborhood blight.
- July 19, 2023: First reading of the condemnation ordinance (certified mail notice to owner was sent and first notice published in the Herald as well)
- July 26, 2023: Second reading of condemnation ordinance (second notice posted in the Herald)
- August 2, 2023: Third reading and public hearing at council meeting. City Council adopted the ordinance, approving the acquisition of the Waits Motel using eminent domain.

Current status:

- This week, the City of Everett filed condemnation paperwork in the Snohomish County Superior Court. The condemnation action is only about the Waits Motel and does not concern other nearby properties.
- Negotiations continue with the property owner. We are working to come to an agreement on a purchase price for the property.
- We recently contracted with a relocation agent to assist with the relocation of the long-term residents of the Waits Motel.
- We are currently in the planning stages to determine our process for reaching out to the long-term residents.

Next steps:

- Once we are able to come to an agreement with the property owner on a purchase price, a purchase and sale agreement will come before the City Council.
- If we are not able to reach an agreement on the purchase price, the price will be determined in the Snohomish County Superior Court.
- Relocation assistance for long-term residents that are being displaced is regulated under state and federal law and the City of Everett will be following the law and providing all required relocation assistance as well as ensuring these individuals are aware of available social services.
- Standard relocation processes exist and are routinely used every day by other government agencies.
- The relocation process will be led by the relocation agent. Relocation specialists will meet with long-term residents to determine their housing needs and ensure they're aware of the support available.
- Long-term residents will be offered a functional, safe living place and with our understanding of their current living situation, this will likely be an improvement for individuals that choose to accept the help available.
- The intent is for the relocation agent to work in tandem with City Community Development staff to also connect long-term residents with available social services.