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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAYOR, PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS CONTINUE WORK TO STEM
OVERCROWDING**

Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr. has been working with his public safety departments to increase safety in our neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for all Everett residents.

The Fire Department joined forces with the Inspectional Services Department in an effort to combat overcrowding and blight. This collaborative effort will allow the inspectors, in both fire prevention and inspectional services, to cover more ground in the battle against illegal apartments and illegal rooming houses. The fire department, under the guidance of Chief David Butler, will be doing daily inspections of property that have been reported to be a public safety danger or have been suspected of overcrowding. The firefighters, who have gone through training over the past few weeks, will then be able to evacuate a property or post a fire detail at the cost of the landlord until the safety hazard has been eliminated.

“I’m excited to see this new plan going into action,” DeMaria said. “This collaboration will increase our abilities and make our enforcement actions that much stronger. Homeowners and absentee landlords need to realize we will not tolerate this behavior in our neighborhoods.”

Mayor DeMaria asked Chief Butler to implement this new plan due to the Mayor’s concerns about overcrowding.

The fire department will be performing these inspections all over the city and have already shut down an illegal apartment on Kelvin Street.

The Police Department has also been working with the Mayor on quality of life issues. Under the direction of Chief Steven Mazzie and with the help of the United States Office

of Housing and Urban Development, the police department is instituting a program designed to penalize property owners allowing illegal drug related behavior to occur on their premises.

The Police Department will be reporting drug related arrests at residences to the United States government and will notify homeowners of their responsibility to maintain drug free properties. Homeowners who fail to take action to keep their properties drug free may face forfeiture of their properties.

“This program will be a true asset to the City of Everett,” Mayor DeMaria said. “We must take a firm stand against irresponsible and reckless property owners. I refuse to lose good neighborhoods to drug use.”

The Mayor also plans to work with the Police Department to target properties and residents with Section 8 vouchers that are participating in illegal behavior. The Mayor has vowed to collaborate with the local housing authorities and police department to have Section 8 vouchers confiscated from residents who execute illegal behavior in their homes.

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For additional press information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

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