

**Open Letter from the Chief of Police**  
**August 4, 2008**

I spend much of my time communicating with the people of Everett on a daily basis to learn about their concerns, how they perceive certain activities and to let them know what we as a police department are doing about their issues. Solving problems is our business and for the most part we are very successful in helping solve the quality of life issues that people in the community have.

Most people realize that the City of Everett is not the farming community it was over a hundred years ago, nor is it the suburbs. They realize it's a slice of urban America and with it, are urban problems. Make no mistake, we have our fair share of housebreaks, robberies, domestic related crimes, drug and juvenile problems and most recently we have had some violence that has cost people their lives. We have been fortunate for many years, as we have been able to avoid the senseless violence that is so prevalent in our neighboring cities.

Recent years have shown numerous changes to those in law enforcement. We have seen an increase in weapons, in particular firearms use. We have watched our problems with bad guys go from local bad guys to international bad guys. We have gone from dealing with generations of families to dealing with a very transient society. We have witnessed drug use and abuse snuff out the lives of many young people before their time. Crime being committed through the use of technology was not a common crime for investigators. These are crimes we respond to today on a daily basis. These and many more are not just problems that exist in Everett, they are problems across the country. We're very fortunate because our problems are miniscule compared to some of the larger urban areas in America.

The feedback I get from the majority of local residents is still related to concerns about parking, traffic issues, groups of juveniles, barking dogs and overcrowded houses and neighborhoods. However, we remain concerned about all types of crime because that is our business.

I consistently tell our residents that they play an important role in preventing, detecting and helping respond to crime and quality of life issues. It's important to know your neighbors, even if they are new ones. It's important to look around the neighborhood for things that don't look right or are out of place and to report those issues. I know from personal experience that the police department and the residents of Everett have worked well together. While recognizing that there is always room for improvement, I appreciate the trust and faith that our residents have in us. We are always striving to do better. We have had success, not only because of our officers, but also because we have caring people in the community. These are the same people who call 911 when something doesn't look right, they're the people that take detailed notes and forward them to our narcotics investigators who then rid the neighborhood of drug pushers, they're the people who volunteer in our auxiliary police department and other volunteer policing programs, these are the people who I've witnessed provide detailed information on fleeing suspects

wanted for serious crimes. Most recently, these are neighborhood people who came out of their houses to assist us when we were trying to lock down a neighborhood and trap a suspect in a serious assault that led to a death.

None of the recent violent crimes are related in any way. There is no one particular person or group that is committing these crimes. Unfortunately, in some of these cases, people have made poor decisions, sometimes under the influence of alcohol and drugs and in some cases carrying weapons.

I am proud of the overall performance of the men and women who put on the uniform of an Everett Police Officer. I am not only proud of their response to the critical incidents that occur, but the relationships that are developed within the community on a daily basis. It is the dedication and hard work from these officers that has allowed us to take suspects into custody within the first 24 hours in the majority of the more serious cases.

My message to the people of Everett is to keep being involved, stay informed and continue to believe in your neighborhood and city. Help us to help you with your problems and concerns. Anyone who knows me well will tell you that I've said time after time that, "We (the Police) can't do it alone." We need your support and help. We will always remain vigilant and be responsive to the needs of the community. In closing, with support from Mayor DeMaria and the rest of the City Government, we as a community will continue to achieve positive results by working together.

If people could be more civil to one another, I probably wouldn't be writing this letter to you all.

Thank you to all the good residents who make policing Everett an honor and a privilege.

  
Steven A. Mazzei  
Chief of Police