

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
EVERETT, MA

2026 FEB 24 A 8:59

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Holly Garcia, presiding and Councilors Michele Capone, Stephanie Martins and Peter Pietrantonio.

The Committee met on a Resolution offered by Councilor Holly Garcia: That the Addiction Recovery Resource Specialist Paul Guarino from the Everett Fire Department Roadmap to Recovery appear at this meeting to discuss the 2025 data for calls and placements.

Addiction Recovery Resource Specialist Paul Guarino was also present.

Mr. Guarino noted that he had previously provided the members of the City Council with a copy of the 2025 Overdose Incident report and was prepared to discuss it earlier in the month but the meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm. He informed the Committee that he began working with the Fire Department back in 2017 to help address the rampant overdose problem the City was confronted with at that time. He provided the Committee with a breakdown of overdose incidents from 2017 to 2025 with a high of 180 overdoses in 2017 to a low of 24 overdoses in 2025. He mentioned that of the 34 overdose incidents in 2025 that there were 25 doses of Narcan were administered to 21 of those overdose incidents that occurred within that year. He explained that data tracking is one major piece of puzzle, but after each overdose in the City it is then followed up with a house visit to the address in which was reported to engage with the individual and their family to provide support services and offer treatment options. He listed a number of highlights from the 2025 EFD Roadmap to Recovery which included sending 19 individuals into detox facilities, 15 individuals into sober homes with grant monies, held overdose awareness day at City Hall and Stop the Stigma Day at the Recreation Center, held multiple Narcan training and talks with EHS students and teachers throughout the School year, held Narcan training to all School nurses at Health Department, held Narcan training at Saugus-Everett Elks for Seniors, started up a monthly hub meeting with Everett Police to identify high risk individuals and getting them the help and resources they need, performs weekly visits to sober houses to stay engaged with those individuals to keep them on the right path. Mr. Guarino also mentioned that the Everett Fire Department was trained in tactical compassion – de-escalation skills with the goal of these trainings designed to equip first responders with the knowledge and tools to recognize signs of mental health challenges and effectively de-escalate rises in the field. He also mentioned that the Everett Police Department is in the process of hiring a mental health social worker to facilitate with these types of calls. Chairperson Garcia stated that she was happy to hear of the progress being made in addressing these types of issues. Councilor Pietrantonio thanked Mr. Guarino for all the work he does and questioned how the grants were being used and Mr. Guarino explained that they were being used for sober homes, ad books and materials, retreats. Councilor Martins also thanked Mr. Guarino and mentioned the recent termination of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator in the Board of Health and asked if Mr. Guarino was able to access any of the grant monies obtained through that position, however Mr. Guarino responded that he was unable to since he was an employee of the Fire

Department and those grants would be under the Board of Health umbrella. Councilor Martins asked if he would place individuals in sober homes in Everett and Mr. Guarino explained that he would try to place them outside of the City to get them out of their home environment. He informed the Committee that if anyone needs to Narcan to call him at 617-374-0489. Councilor Capone inquired to what he had planned for 2026 and Mr. Guarino explained that he would continue to do many of things previously mentioned which included recovery events and going to schools to speak to the students especially about the increasing problem of youth vaping. Councilor Pietrantonio wanted to know if his contact information was on City website and Mr. Guarino acknowledged that it was. Councilor Pietrantonio also gave a shout out to the work Eric Mazzeo has done in addressing substance abuse issues.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to place on file.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

#2-C0037-26

Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service Committee
February 19, 2026

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Holly Garcia, presiding and Councilors Michele Capone, Stephanie Martins and Peter Pietrantonio.

The Committee met on a Resolution offered by Councilor Peter Pietrantonio: That the Director of Inspectional Services appear at this meeting to answer questions about the recent snow storm.

Director of Inspectional Services David Palumbo was invited but was not present.

Councilor Pietrantonio explained that he had spoken to Mr. Palumbo who had informed him that he would be unable to attend this meeting. Councilor Pietrantonio requested that the matter be granted further time in Committee.

The Committee voted: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees