



City of Everett
Office of the Mayor
Carlo DeMaria, Jr.
484 Broadway
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, February 27, 2017

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMAIN COMMITTED TO THOSE BATTLING ADDICTION *City hires first-ever Substance Abuse Clinician*

On Tuesday, February 21st Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the City of Everett introduced the City of Everett's first-ever Substance Abuse Clinician. As the City's new Clinician, Tori Cyrus, will work with the Fire and Health Departments as well as other City Agencies in assistance with the substance abuse epidemic.

Cyrus is a graduate of Fitchburg State University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, and is currently in graduate school at Fitchburg State, where she is receiving her Masters in Mental Health Counseling.

Cyrus' main objective as the Substance Abuse Clinician is to continue to work and take a strong stance with the Mayor, City Council, other City departments and agencies to make substantial progress in educating the public of the substance abuse epidemic.

Cyrus believes the City must remain committed in its intent to decrease the stigma of mental health. She aims to continue working with the administration and City Council to remain supportive with this epidemic.

The opioid epidemic in Massachusetts and in neighboring states shows no signs of abating, despite a concerted and multifaceted effort by government at the local, state, and federal levels. Looking to the future, Mayor DeMaria believes the Substance Abuse Clinician position will help curtail the opioid epidemic that continues to grip our community.

Mayor DeMaria stated, "With every day that passes, we risk losing another life, another valued member of our community. In Everett and in every city and town across the Commonwealth, these losses are not sustainable. We simply can no longer afford the loss of potential and the devastating impact on our city that this epidemic continues to have every day. With Tori we will continue our work to combat the opioid crisis."

The DeMaria administration and City Council have been committed at every level and in every department to work to combat this statewide epidemic. Together they have continued to do what they can to assist those in our community battling addiction.

Councilor Leo McKinnon, Chairperson of the Opioid Committee, explained that the City Council has been working closely with the DeMaria administration to establish a well-rounded drug prevention program for the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. McKinnon highlighted that the Mayor and City Council have partnered with Cambridge Health Alliance, Everett Overcoming Addiction, and the Everett Community Partnership – Substance Coalition to address the problem while promoting positive health and well-being.

McKinnon stated, “It is time for opioid abuse to stop in Everett. We have seen the destructive force drugs can be in our City and we will no longer tolerate it. The Substance Abuse Clinician position will be an instrumental part of fighting this epidemic and I know Tori will work well with both the administration and City Council. We must all come together to help our loved ones struggling with addiction.”

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