

November 26, 2019

Dear EPD Staff and Family Members,

Too often, Everett Police Department employees are exposed to the emotional traumas associated with responding to tragic events in our community. The Everett Police Department's (EPD) Peer Support Team was formed to assist you and your loved ones during times when stress levels rise. I openly invite you to reach out to any team member when you feel that they might be able to help you or your significant other through a challenging time.

The biggest part of a team member's job is to simply listen and provide support to co-workers. Most of the time that is all it takes to make sure they are not overburdened or overly distracted by work-life issues—a psychological first aid, of sorts. The team prides itself in the work they do behind the scenes, spending time chatting with peers and friends.

Members of the EPD Peer Support Team are not mental health professionals, but can recommend some of the various resources available to law enforcement employees in our region. They also have a list of law enforcement friendly Mental Health Professionals—ones that know the ins-and-outs of police work.

While the team's focus is on the wellbeing of an Everett Police Department employee, there are many programs available for the entire family too. For example, the City of Everett contracts with the Wellspring Family Employee Assistance Program. As a family member, you may have access to their services at no cost—such as counseling, where the first three visits each year are free. The phone number for Wellspring is listed on page two of this letter and you do not need a referral from the Peer Support Team to contact them. Their website highlights all the services they offer.

Below is a list of current team members and the best ways to contact them:

Name	Personal E-mail	Work Cell	Personal Cell
DeRousse, John (D/C)	johnderousse@yahoo.com	425-754-6709	425-345-7212
Coats, John	towerjdc@gmail.com	425-508-3929	425-422-6634
Hogue, Ryan	rchogue@gmail.com	425-754-8326	206-859-3463
Jackson, Doug	doug_jackson@live.com		206-919-4083
Lineberry, Greg (Capt.)	greg@lineberry.net	425-754-6527	425-330-9706







It's not possible to dive into all the assistance offered within the body of this letter, but be assured that there are many options. Everything from financial assistance to family counseling (and much more) is available. You are encouraged to peruse the websites listed below to get a better understanding of what support programs are offered. For more information, you may also contact any Peer Support Team member, including Officer Doug Jackson, who currently manages the team.

In terms of privacy, it should be noted that confidentiality is a top concern for the Peer Support Team. Not only is there privileged communication for police officers established by law—as outlined in RCW 5.60.060—but there are also strict protocols regarding the discussion of information within the group. The team does not share information amongst its members.

For times where employees want to avoid using department members altogether (in an effort to remain even more anonymous) the following resources are helpful:

Code 4 Northwest	https://www.Code4nw.org	425.243.5092
Wellspring Family Services EAP	www.wfseap.org (User: City of Everett)	800.553.7798
VOA - Crisis Line	www.voaww.org or www.imhurting.org	800.584.3578
Safe Call Now	www.safecallnow.org	206.459.3020
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline		800.273.8255

If you need this information in the future, but cannot locate this letter, it is posted in several locations. The Everett Police Officer's Association website, the City of Everett Police Department intranet and the EPOA Family Connection Facebook page all have links to the team contact list and general resource numbers.

In closing, I want to thank you for the support that you provide the members of our department. With a continued partnership we can ensure that EPD employees will stay mentally strong and emotionally resilient to the traumas of law enforcement.

Sincerely,

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