



CITY OF EDMONDS

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MIKE NELSON
MAYOR

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MAYOR NELSON ROLLS OUT PLAN TO REVIEW AND UPDATE POLICE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

As a follow-up to my announcement of intent to create the Equity and Justice Advisory Task Force, I want to outline the steps I plan on taking to study and implement reforms to address police violence and systemic racism, which include:

- Reviewing and updating our Police Department's use of force policies;
- Creating and implementing a body-worn camera program;
- Reviewing and updating our Department's de-escalation policies and practice; and
- Creating and implementing more robust and comprehensive anti-bias/anti-harassment training.

In addition to the above action items, it is my hope that this Task Force will thoughtfully advise me on a host of other issues from equitable hiring to addressing systemic racism.

While I'm referring to the additional work that can and will be done, I must acknowledge that currently our Police Department has taken proactive steps in this regard, including the following:

- The Edmonds Police Department was one of the first in the region to implement a broad less-lethal force program. During every use-of-force training, officers review de-escalation techniques.
- Every use-of-force incident is reviewed at three different levels, with the final review done by Acting Chief Jim Lawless. All use-of-force reports are reviewed collectively to identify any trends and/or recommendations for training or policy updates.
- All officers are currently required to attend anti-bias/anti-harassment training.
- All officers receive Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training; this training was mandated internally by the Department several years before our State Legislature required it.

Our Acting Police Chief will also be issuing a statement addressing police violence and systemic racism.

I do want to be clear: the individual Edmonds Police Officers that I have spent time with and witnessed in action are good women and men who are dedicated to serve, not harm, our community.