



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

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**To:** Media

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### **Edmonds Earns Impressive Ratings from Residents in New Community Livability Survey**

***Overwhelming Majority of Respondents Say Edmonds Is Great Place to Live;  
Maintaining Public Safety and Strong Economy Listed as Top Concerns***

**(Edmonds, WA)** – When asked how they felt their city was doing, the overwhelming majority of residents who responded to a recent Community Livability survey gave Edmonds a resounding ‘thumbs up.’ According to the National Citizen Survey’s “Community Livability Report,” almost all residents rated the quality of life in Edmonds as excellent or good. They also rated Safety and Economy as the two highest priorities for the Edmonds community over the next two years.

“This is fantastic feedback from the public about how well our city is serving its community,” says Mayor Dave Earling. “While our staff is thrilled at the high marks the community gives its government services in this survey, we are also mindful of the areas we can improve upon and are grateful for the public’s input to help Edmonds become an even greater place for all of us to live, work and play.”

Among the top findings from the National Citizens Survey (NCS) administered by the National Research Center in Edmonds this July:

- Edmonds is a great place to live, with 9 in 10 residents positively rating overall image, overall appearance and Edmonds as a great place to raise children, among other attributes. Ninety-six percent of respondents rated Edmonds as an excellent or good place to live, much higher than responses in nationwide surveys and those from throughout the Pacific Northwest.
- Safety is an asset and a priority, with 9 in 10 residents stating they feel safe in Edmonds and also identifying safety as a priority to focus on in coming years.
- The economy is important to residents and highly rated in Edmonds. About 8 in 10 residents rated the City's economic health as positive, although it is recognized that more jobs in Edmonds for Edmonds residents would be desirable as only 3 in 10 work in the city.
- The City supports a culture of diversity and opportunities for citizen engagement. At least three-quarters of residents gave excellent/good ratings to opportunities for cultural/arts/events engagement. Also, up to 6 in 10 felt that the City has high levels of community engagement and is open to people of diverse backgrounds.

“This survey provides incredible insight into the many facets of our community and will be a valuable tool for our city,” says City of Edmonds Economic Director Patrick Doherty. “It helps us gauge community feedback on important issues, prioritize our budget needs, and see how Edmonds measures up to other cities of its size.”

Additional findings in the ‘Community Characteristics’ section of the survey showed Edmonds residents rated many categories well above the national averages, including:

- Ease of walking
- Traffic flow
- Overall natural environment
- Cleanliness
- Air quality
- Public places
- Vibrant downtown area
- Place to visit
- Mental health care
- Preventive health services
- Health care
- Cultural/arts/music activities
- Adult education
- Social events and activities

Only one category - affordable quality housing - ranked lower than national averages.

The National Citizen Survey (NCS) was administered by the National Research Center (NRC) in Edmonds in July 2016. 2,200 households were randomly selected and mailed the survey. An online version of the survey was also made available to anyone in the community via the City's website and Facebook page. Responses to the randomized survey totaled 586, or 28%, which was well within the 20% to 40% range of normal response rate experienced by the NRC. With the addition of 320 online responses, total response to the survey was 906.

The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) and across eight central facets of the community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment, and Community Engagement).

A link to the complete survey report and a summary of its findings can be viewed on the City's website at <http://edmondswa.gov/community-services.html>.

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