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**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MAYOR SUBMITS INSPECTIONAL SERVICES LEGISLATION TO CITY COUNCIL**

Continuing with his commitment to improve the operation of City Hall, Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr. submitted a home rule petition and supporting ordinance to formulate the city's Inspectional Services Department. This home rule petition, once approved by the entire city council and the state legislature, will allow Code Enforcement, Building Department, and Health Department Inspectors to operate under one department umbrella.

“Combining the services of these departments is an important move,” states Mayor DeMaria, “it’s a model that works in a number of surrounding communities, and will work here in Everett.” Earlier this year, the administration initially proposed the ordinance, however recalled the legislation in order to strengthen the ordinance including the home rule petition for State Legislation approval. State approval is necessary to transfer the Health Department Inspectors from the Board of Health into the Inspectional Services Department.

Combining the three inspectional services, residents and businesses alike will benefit from the consolidated effort. Permits that require a visit to three different offices, will now only require a visit to one person. Inspections scheduled between three different agencies will be scheduled through one office. The Mayor predicts this will increase operational efficiency and provide easier accessibility for the homeowners, contractors, and businesses that frequent these offices.

The Mayor’s primary mission is to increase Code Enforcement presence and effectiveness throughout the city. With his goal to eliminate illegal apartments,

overcrowding and illegal rooming houses, the ISD department will share information, resources, and personnel to accomplish that mission.

“We’re living in tough economic times right now” says Mayor DeMaria, “there are vacant and foreclosed properties which we need to monitor, there are many property owners who are breaking the law and renting illegal apartments, that is not going to happen under my watch.” The Mayor cites effective programs in Chelsea, Boston, Lynn and Somerville, and believes this combination will be a great benefit to the city, operationally and fiscally.

Mayor DeMaria was quick to also point that the legislation presented on Tuesday night is only the first step. “We’re monitoring a couple of ordinances the city’s legislature is reviewing in committee,” states Mayor DeMaria, “I hope to get an answer from them soon, so we can further strengthen our goal.” The Rules and Ordinances Committee is currently reviewing an ordinance allowing the city to appoint a hearing officer for Code Enforcement violators.

“My hope is the residents see the move as positive,” says Mayor DeMaria, “we’re not reinventing the wheel, we are using successful models from other cities, and implementing them here. It’s a progressive move and the best for the community.”

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For additional information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

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