

# Carlo ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DeMaria MAYOR

August 18, 2025

Dear Fellow Residents of Everett,

It troubles me that with all the important issues facing families in Everett, we have spent so much time talking about longevity payments. The focus of government should be on all of you—the people we are elected to serve.

There has been a lot of talk about me when it comes to longevity. I think it is important that you hear from me directly. Let me be perfectly clear: all the payments I received were authorized by the prior ordinance that was approved by the City Council. Because I know that I have done nothing wrong, I am taking legal steps to put this issue to rest, once and for all.

As your Mayor, **I believe you deserve the facts**. That is why I have taken the step of filing for a declaratory judgment in Massachusetts Superior Court. Under M.G.L. Chapter 231A, a declaratory judgment allows someone to ask a judge to resolve a legal question before any enforcement or penalties take place. It is used when parties disagree on the meaning or effect of ordinances or statutes—and it seeks clarity, not confrontation.

In this case, I am asking the court to rule whether the longevity payments I received were lawful under the ordinance as adopted in 2016. I am using private funds to pay for this legal action to have an independent, neutral party reach a decision based on facts.

The council itself was appropriated \$150,000 to audit and explore options—but notably, they have not pursued a declaratory judgment themselves, which would have resolved the issue with the clearest, most direct path to legal resolution rather than stoking ongoing controversy. I will undergo the same legal scrutiny—but on terms that allow for transparency and adjudication, insulated from politics.

This action will include documentation, hearing dates, and court filings. This action allows the city to address the questions head-on, with documentation, questioning, and the opportunity for rebuttal—not behind closed doors or through one-sided press coverage.

By choosing this route, I am **prioritizing the residents' right to truth**. I am standing ready to abide by whatever legal outcome emerges. — I am confident that a judge will rule on the facts, which are:

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**Multiple city councilors who voted for the longevity ordinance in 2016 voted so that the ordinance would bring the mayor's salary in line with what the same position paid in other communities.**

- *"I think we need to put a side-note that this is for whoever sits in the office, that we do what's right for the position and not for the individual. And I think we need to do that when we're talking about all salaries across the board whether it's an executive position or a clerical position or any position in the City – you have to look at what's right for the position. And I truly believe that, by voting this, it brings it up to equal with other surrounding communities' positions."*  
Councilor Michael McLaughlin (September 26, 2016)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfnPTWXhHA0&t=1h21m39s>
- *"I just want to echo the words of Councilor McLaughlin. I agree 100%. Thank you."*  
Councilor Michael Mangan (September 26, 2016)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfnPTWXhHA0&t=1h22m40s>
- *"I've done a lot of research in other cities and towns. All this does is really brings it up to date to the other cities and towns and what we should have been paying a long time ago."*  
Councilor Rosa DiFlorio (September 26, 2016).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfnPTWXhHA0&t=1h22m50s>

**All city employees receive longevity payments annually.**

- All longevity payments in the City of Everett – Union Employees, Non-Union Employees—are annual payments.
- Given that the intention of the Ordinance, as demonstrated from the words of the Councilors who deliberated upon and voted to pass the Ordinance, was to bring the Mayor's compensation up to that of mayors in surrounding communities, the annual longevity payment was the only rational conclusion to achieve said goal.

**How longevity payments were calculated was debated publicly by the City Council multiple times.**

- The first draft of a Longevity Ordinance for the position of Mayor was introduced on June 13, 2016. This was referred to the Committee on Ways & Means on June 23, 2016.
- The item was back before the full City Council on July 25, 2016, at which point the sponsor of the Ordinance stated that the language needed to be revised and referred it back to himself.
- A revised version of the Longevity Ordinance appeared back before the City Council on September 26, 2016, which received an affirmative vote for Enrollment (10 Yeas | 1 Nay). The Ordinance was then voted for Ordainment on October 11, 2016 (8 Yeas | 1 Nay).
- For nearly 4 months, this Ordinance was discussed and debated before a Committee and the full body of the City Council. Councilors were afforded multiple opportunities at no fewer than five separate meetings to ask clarifying questions, to assert any opposition that they may have, or to request amendments to the language.

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The facts dispute any suggestion by current or former city councilors that they did not have any idea of how longevity payments were implemented or how they were calculated.

This moment did not arrive in a vacuum. In late 2021, I took the rare step of filing a defamation lawsuit against the Everett Leader Herald, after discovering that the publication had consistently printed fabricated stories, false quotes, and unfounded allegations, intended to demean me and undermine my record of service. In court, they admitted to constructing baseless accusations of corruption, harassment, and conspiracy. I ultimately won and the paper folded—after nearly 140 years—due to its admitted lies and fabrications to defame me.

Not long after that victory, a familiar narrative resurfaced. The Office of the Inspector General issued a report alleging I misused power to secure excessive longevity payments, and the City Council immediately demanded repayment, approved a no-confidence resolution, and stirred a politically charged investigation. This pattern mirrors the earlier smear campaign by the Herald Leader.

I am now committed to resolving the issue through the only proper means available under Massachusetts law: a declaratory judgment.

Despite all the efforts to distract you, please know that **I am still hard at work for you.** Here's what we've accomplished over the past four years—and earlier—rooted in real impact for everyday Everett residents:

**Fiscal Management & Transparency:** Our city earned the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for FY 2024, and maintained our AA+ bond rating, enabling low-cost borrowing to fund capital improvements in our community.. That investment paid for repaired roads, modernized water infrastructure, upgraded community buildings, and renovated open spaces while saving taxpayers in the long run.

**School Capacity Improvements:** I have put forth options to alleviate over-crowding in our classrooms and to increase our vocational programming options to give our students more career opportunities.

**Public Safety:** Through strategic investments in community policing and data-driven patrols, crime in Everett has decreased by 28 percent over the last six years, making our neighborhoods safer. Our emergency medical response time has improved with the addition of the Everett Fire Department ambulance.

**Parks & Public Spaces:** We renovated Gateway Park along the Malden River—a boardwalk with restored wetlands, stormwater controls, and native habitat—while also investing millions in renovating Glendale Park, the Shute Library, and neighborhood tot-lots and playgrounds. Those places bring Everett families new quality of life improvements.

**Smart Redevelopment:** Capitalizing on the Encore development under my leadership, the city has attracted private development to clean up the former Exxon site and advanced plans to reclaim former industrial land—most notably for potential development of the Revolution Stadium project and mixed-use waterfront space on the old Mystic Generating site. In addition to providing our community with access to open space designed based on our community preferences, state

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and local oversight will ensure that transit improvements will be made as a condition for the project to be approved. The transit-oriented development will have limited parking to address concerns about vehicle congestion and will include access via buses, trains, and water shuttles. These projects bring jobs, tax base, and sustainable land use.

**Housing Affordability:** We've added 600+ new housing units, including deeply affordable units aimed at working families. The vehicle restrictions on these new developments prevents them contributing to the congestion neighbors face from too many vehicles in existing neighborhoods. This progress helps tackle the housing crisis from within Everett, not from outside development.

**Serving Seniors:** We have expanded senior services—transportation assistance, wellness clinics, monthly social events—reaching over 1,200 seniors each month, helping combat isolation and improve quality of life for older residents.

**Increased Public Transit Options:** I was the first municipal leader to implement designated bus lanes during peak travel times. The relationships I have built with state leaders, including governors, lieutenant governors, transportation secretaries and general managers at the MBTA, will result in the city's first commuter rail stop, the completion of the pedestrian bridge over the Mystic River to Assembly Row, the Silver Line expansion, and additional Bus Rapid Transit lanes into Boston.

These are not campaign promises—they are programs underway and projects completed. They matter because they improve your day-to-day life, not because they fill a newspaper page.

As we move forward, here is how we will continue serving Everett—beyond this controversy—to build on progress and **keep our city on the right track**. I remain committed to delivering for you:

- Safe streets
- Strong schools
- Affordable housing
- Increased public transit options
- Vital parks and open spaces
- Fiscal responsibility
- Transparent governance

My commitment to you and to improving Everett for all our families has never waived. I have been and will continue fighting for you.

When the gavel falls, the case will end—but your needs, our shared future, and the momentum we've built will continue forward. Together, we will keep Everett on the path residents deserve. Thank you for letting me serve—and for judging me on what we have built, not what our opponents try to tear down.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, or any issue, please reach out to me at [carlo@carloforeverett.com](mailto:carlo@carloforeverett.com).

Sincerely,



**Mayor Carlo DeMaria**