

Fw: PUBLIC COMMENT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO THOSE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS-MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

From Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>  
Date Thu 5/14/2026 11:24 AM  
To Daniel Pitariu <daniel@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Please include in the packet for next week.

From: staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 7:45 AM  
To: Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Dave Cox <dave.cox@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Erin Minnis <erin.minnis@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Tina Van Pelt <tina.vanpelt@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Jeff Breckel <jeff.breckel@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Adi Elliott <adi.elliott@ci.stevenson.wa.us>; Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>; Tracy Wyckoff <tracyw@co.skamania.wa.us>  
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO THOSE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS-MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Jenny,  
Good morning....Please accept this as my public comment for next weeks May 21,2026 City Council Meeting.  
Thanks,  
Staci

City Council Members,  
Good morning. Staci Patton, 5th generation Skamania County resident. This morning I am asking you all to recognize mental health awareness month, and how law enforcement responds to these types of calls, still to this day. Over the years, through public records or people reaching out in the community to share their experiences of how law enforcement has responded to calls involving their loved one in mental health crisis, it is clear that more training is needed. I have seen cases where sometimes the courts/defense attorneys recognize this, and the proper help is received, and other times where the issue is ignored and the person becomes a repeat offender, falls through the cracks, and sometimes wrongly ends up in prison.

I have included a couple links including a current article from CJTC, that imply officers absolutely still are responding to calls involving mental health crisis calls.  
Thank you for your time,  
Staci

[Mental Health Awareness Month Highlights Compassionate Crisis Response Across Washington | Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission](#)

"Through its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program, WSCJTC continues to prepare law enforcement professionals with the tools and training needed to respond safely and respectfully to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises."

[Addiction often goes hand-in-hand with other mental illnesses. Both must be addressed. | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)

"Recovering from drug addiction is notoriously difficult. Setbacks are common. **Too often, a critical element is overlooked: co-occurring mental health conditions.** Treating mental illnesses like depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, ADHD, and others with medications or other therapies is crucial to address the addiction and overdose crisis that now claims over 100,000 lives annually."

[New Law Demands De-escalation, Not Abandoning People in Crisis - ACLU of Washington](#)

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