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To: Media

Contact: Patrick Doherty, Economic Development and Community Services Director
Patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov

EDMONDS HIRES A NEW HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER

Position will develop program to effectively connect local residents to services

(Edmonds, WA) - After an extensive hiring process and regional search, the City of Edmonds is pleased to announce the hiring of Mindy Woods as the City’s first Human Services Program Manager. This new half-time position was the result of a proposal by City Councilmembers last year which led to its inclusion in the 2020 budget to support Edmonds residents in need and get them connected to public and private services.

Mindy is no stranger to Edmonds. A local resident, she currently serves on the City’s Diversity Commission and, in some ways, has functioned as a volunteer, go-to connector for many groups and organizations. In addition, Mindy serves on numerous human services-related boards and volunteer organizations locally, regionally and even nationally. She is very well connected in the greater Edmonds community, all of which made her a natural choice for this position.

“Her appointment couldn’t come at a better time,” said Economic Development and Community Services Director Patrick Doherty. “The COVID-19 impacts are disproportionally affecting those who need our help the most. Mindy will have her work cut out for her, but we trust her vast network of connections will serve her well in this position.”

Mindy’s first task will be connecting with local social services agencies to choose which are best suited to implement the recently Council-approved Housing Relief Program, a program of $100,000 that will go to families earning less than 60 percent of the Snohomish County median income to assist with housing, medical, food and other household bills in order to prevent housing instability.
Moving beyond this first task, this new position’s principal focus will be to create and manage a sustainable, comprehensive human services program to connect the wide array of people and households in Edmonds who may need different kinds of services, including low-income households, seniors, veterans, disabled individuals, domestic violence victims, immigrants and refugees, at-risk youth, and others. In addition, it will be important to seek and apply for grant funding on an ongoing basis, tapping into a wide assortment of potential granting agencies oriented to various populations.

Mindy Woods is a Navy veteran who served during the Persian Gulf War, a housing and homeless advocate, and a single mother with an adult son. She has lived in Edmonds and the local area for 20 years. Mindy has been a care-giver for children with special needs and has worked with a variety of organizations that serve low-income people, including senior citizens, veterans and unsheltered people in our community.

“I have experienced homelessness twice,” Mindy shared. “I quickly learned that navigating the system and finding resources was challenging. I want to help solve that problem for other Edmonds residents. I look forward to calling upon my experiences and my connections to help better serve our community.”

Mindy’s first day on the job was May 6th.

Mindy Woods may be reached at mindy.woods@edmondswa.gov

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