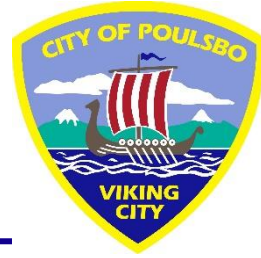


City of Poulsbo

Housing, Health and Human Services



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Date: January 7, 2022

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Title: City of Poulsbo to Recognize Nine Healthcare Heroes at January 12 Council Meeting

The City of Poulsbo will recognize nine Healthcare Heroes during the January 12 City Council Meeting. These individuals provided extraordinary service to the residents of Poulsbo in 2021 and have helped the City respond to a range of healthcare needs. According to Mayor Becky Erickson, who will be recognizing the Heroes on Wednesday evening, “the COVID-19 virus has created many challenges and hardships for Poulsbo residents. The City recognizes and is deeply grateful for these individuals’ sacrifices and service.”

The 2019 Healthcare Heroes are:

Bainbridge Community Pharmacy owner **Mark Tan** and Bainbridge Prepares Executive Director **Loren Bast**

Mark and Loren, along with numerous staff and volunteers working with Bainbridge Prepares, organized vaccine clinics on Bainbridge Island that vaccinated thousands of people throughout our region. Mark and Loren worked with the City of Poulsbo’s Housing, Health, and Human Services Department to vaccinate elderly and disabled Poulsbo residents in their homes and connect hundreds of individuals with limited internet access and English language skills to vaccine appointments.

Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic Executive Director **Scott Brandon**

Clallam County based OPCC partnered with the City in 2021 to hire and supervise a behavioral health professional for the Poulsbo Fire CARES team when no Kitsap agency was able to assist. Scott and OPCC have given an outstanding level of service to the Poulsbo Fire Department, the City of Poulsbo, and City residents, through Fire CARES, despite being located in Port Angeles. The Poulsbo Fire CARES program helped over 300 individuals struggling with behavioral health issues in 2021—providing in person, home based support and case management at a time where COVID 19 limited the availability of office based services.

City volunteer **Alane Basco**

Alane and her colleagues at North Point Church set up and managed vaccine clinics and cooling centers at North Point Church to assist Poulsbo residents. She also led a volunteer team to help people sign up for COVID vaccine appointments who were unable to make online appointments because of Internet access or language issues. Thanks to Alane and her team of volunteers, hundreds of Poulsbo residents received personalized assistance when appointments were difficult to obtain.

Poulsbo Safeway pharmacist **Tore Hagerup**

Tore has provided thousands of COVID and flu vaccines at Poulsbo Safeway pharmacy throughout the pandemic. He is being recognized for his work with the City's Housing, Health, and Human Services Department to provide vaccines and vaccine boosters to Poulsbo residents with mobility issues who found it difficult to leave their homes. Tore has worked with the H3 department, throughout the pandemic, to identify vaccination appointments and testing opportunities for the City's vulnerable residents.

Poulsbo Rite Aid pharmacist **Jashper Jingho**

Jashper has provided thousands of COVID and flu vaccines at Poulsbo Rite Aid pharmacy throughout the pandemic. He is being recognized by the City for his willingness to assist the City with two drive up flu vaccination events—despite the long hours and challenging environments.

Kitsap Public Health and Department of Emergency Management employees **Anne Moen and Doug Blangsted**

Anne Moen is a Community Outreach Specialist for Kitsap Public Health and Doug Blangsted is a Deputy of Operations at the Department of Emergency Management. Anne and Doug have been central to the drive-up COVID testing effort throughout the County that has served over 13,000 people—and run the weekly testing site at Poulsbo City Hall. Thanks to their efforts and organizational skills, Poulsbo residents have had consistent access to tests at City Hall garage and friendly, professional service.

Poulsbo Police **Chief Ron Harding**

Access to behavioral health care has been a challenge during the pandemic—just as the need for mental health and substance use disorder services is increasing. Chief Harding has been a champion of field based behavioral health outreach since arriving at the Poulsbo Police Department, and has started, supported, and improved three City behavioral health initiatives. The City recognizes Chief Harding for his leadership and support of the Police Navigator, Fire CARES team, and After Hours Success Coach programs. He shows the potential police departments have to improve the health outcomes of their communities.

Awards will be announced at the beginning of the January 12 Council meeting during Mayor's comment period. Agenda and log in information is available at the City's webpage:
<https://cityofpoulsbo.com/agendas-minutes/>