



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Catherine Ushka and Council Assistant Lynda Foster  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** **Gun Violence Prevention Contingency Fund Request**  
**DATE:** March 17, 2021

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**I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

**Council Contingency Fund Request:**

I respectfully request City Council concurrence to direct the City Manager to allocate \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund in order to:

- Hire a facilitator to convene workgroups to determine best practices for funding gun violence prevention efforts, and
- Hire a research team to review best practices to address gun and youth violence reduction.

The City Council is committed to reducing violent offences, which includes gun violence. Of the 29 homicides in 2020, 21 involved a handgun or other firearm. From 2014 to 2018, there was an increase of 37 percent in the number of criminal offenses in Tacoma involving firearms. We must invest in gun violence prevention, which starts with investing funds in this research and community engagement.

**Research Scope of Work:**

- Research gun violence prevention programs (to include youth and young adult violence prevention) and identify financially sustainable best practices designed to save lives and promote community healing
- Research strategies to empower Tacoma communities impacted by gun violence, potentially in partnership with other agencies and entities, to support healing and increase resiliency
  - Identify strategies for how City of Tacoma and community members can work together to reduce gun violence
- Research and recommend resources and programming designed to prevent and reduce gun-related violence amongst youth and young adults
- Recommend state and federal legislative priorities and other measures (that can be led locally) to improve gun safety and prevent gun-related violence
- Identify any other programs, best practices and other practices used in other cities to reduce gun violence
- Review potential sustainable funding/revenue sources for the City to consider to use towards gun violence reduction programs
- Impact of gun violence on race and the disparate impacts on persons of color

**Workgroup Facilitation Scope of Work:**

- Hire outside facilitator to conduct 5-7 focus group discussions with various stakeholders

- Develop report identifying areas of consensus and key areas of divergence for Council consideration
- Recommended Participants:
  - Tuff Love Intervention - provider
  - Consejo Counseling and Referral Services - provider
  - Safe Streets - provider
  - Tacoma Pierce County Health Department – provider and community partner
  - Puyallup Tribe – community partner
  - YWCA – provider
  - Coleman & Associates – provider
  - Health Department
  - Tacoma Police Department
  - Tacoma Public Schools
  - Alliance for Gun Responsibility
  - Tacoma Cease Fire Community Group
  - Gun Manufacturers (1)
  - Gun Retailers (7)

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

The community has called on Council to take action to address gun violence. Council Members have heard from individuals and their families impacted directly, as well as from neighbors in communities where gun violence decreases safety and wellbeing. Council Members have dedicated years to meeting with community group and supporting community led actions and have heard the need for the City to dedicate resources to addressing the root causes of gun violence in Tacoma.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

Gun violence has disparate impacts on communities. Three quarters of all murders and approximately half of all suicides in the United States in 2017 involved a firearm. Every year, 600 American women are shot to death by intimate partners, and of all women shot to death by others in the United States, half were shot by their intimate partners. Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by gun violence. They experience nearly 10 times the gun homicides and 15 times the gun assaults as white Americans. Gun violence prevention is an equity issue.

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents  
 Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Lynda Foster at (253) 219 - 0339 or Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Council Member Ushka

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES**

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ POS# 3