



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker and Council Member Catherine Ushka
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Gun Violence Prevention Contingency Fund Request - March 30, 2021**
DATE: 3/24/2021

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution directing 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.
[Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker and Council Member Catherine Ushka]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker and Council Member Catherine Ushka

BACKGROUND:

This Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

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.

Select an indicator.

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.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not pass this resolution	Save money for other Council priorities	City’s knowledge on gun violence prevention best practices remains limited
2. Allocate funds to gun violence prevention efforts instead of research	Immediate positive impact	City may be investing in less impactful programming



3. Allocate a larger sum of funds to this effort	More robust research and community outreach	Cost estimates suggest more funds aren't needed
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EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

The outcomes of the research and outreach should be reported to the City Council by the end of 2021.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend adoption of this resolution in order to fund research and outreach efforts to determine equitable best practices the City of Tacoma can engage in to prevent gun violence and improve the overall safety and quality of life in Tacoma.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. Council Contingency	660000		\$25,000
2.			
TOTAL			\$25,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Council Contingency

Are the expenditures and revenues budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

No, Please explain below

Council Contingency Funds are explicitly set aside for expenditures not planned and budgeted in the biennial budget.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the city's FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A