



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Tadd Willie, Deputy City Manager
COPY: Mayor; Council Members; Community Vitality and Safety Committee; Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Finance Director; Linda Stewart, Neighborhood & Community Services Director; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst; Lynda Foster, Council Assistant; Claire Goodwin, Council Assistant; Bucoda Warren, Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 28624 – Firearms & Ammunition Tax – Feedback on Proposed Recommendations
DATE: February 10, 2020

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing, Request for Direction

SUMMARY:

City Council passed Substitute Amended Ordinance No. 28624 on November 12, 2019, which implemented a tax on guns and ammunition effective July 1, 2020 in the City of Tacoma. In addition to implementing the tax, there were several other requirements of the City Manager including making recommendations on:

- Potential partnerships and programming to reduce youth and young adult gun violence
- Gun buyback program
- Local, state, and federal legislative priorities

BACKGROUND:

City Council passed Substitute Amended Ordinance No. 28624 on November 12, 2019. The Ordinance amended Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to Tax Code, by adding a new Chapter 6A.120, entitled “Firearms and Ammunition Tax”, to impose a tax on firearms and ammunition to consist of \$25.00 per firearm sold at retail, \$0.02 per round of ammunition .22 caliber or less, and \$0.05 per round of other ammunition sold at retail to raise revenue for funding programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and help offset the impacts and costs of gun violence in the City.

At the January 14, 2020 City Council Study Session, Council agreed that the proposed City Manager recommendations would come to the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The City Manager recommendations on potential partnerships and engagement:

- Expand services and grassroots efforts to improve the social intervention network
- Engage key subject matter experts
- Identify Convener and mobilize Community Advisory Committee
- Select Fiscal Agent to administer funding for grassroots efforts

The City Manager recommendations on programs to reduce youth violence:

- Provider service delivery efficacy
- Community skills and spheres of influence
- Scope and scale of issues we are working to address
- Challenge old thinking and norms around this work and revise approaches to improve outcomes
- Develop outcomes aligned with performance indicators

The City Manager recommendation on a gun buyback program is not to proceed with a gun buyback program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff is still determining the cost and availability of both a facilitator for community meetings and the researcher.