



# Firearms and Ammunition Tax

Ordinance #28624

City of Tacoma  
Community Vitality and Safety Committee  
February 13, 2020



## Purpose/Agenda



- Agenda:
  - Ordinance overview / Timeline of events
  - City Manager Recommendations
    - Potential partnerships and programming to reduce youth and young adult gun violence
    - Gun buyback program
    - Local, state, and federal legislative priorities
  - Next Steps
  - Questions / Feedback on Recommendations

## Ordinance #28624



- Adopted on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Imposes tax on businesses making retail sales of firearms and ammunition
  - \$25 per firearm sold
  - \$0.02 per round of ammunition for .22 caliber or less
  - \$0.05 per round of ammunition for all others
  - Estimated \$30,000 in annual revenue
- Directs City Manager to make recommendations and to review impacts of tax, its revenues, and to convene workgroup

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## Timeline



Event	Description
November 12, 2019	Ordinance Adoption
November 25, 2019	Ordinance Effective Date
<b>February 8, 2020</b>	<b>Initial Recommendations to City Council</b>
May 25, 2020	Conduct Review and Report to City Council
July 1, 2020	Tax Implemented
November 2020	First Quarterly Receipt of Revenue
November 25, 2020 - Onward	Conduct Annual Review

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## By February 8, 2020



- City Manager to make recommendations to City Council regarding:
  1. Potential partnerships and programming to reduce youth and young adult gun violence
  2. Gun buyback program
  3. Local, state, and federal legislative priorities
- Information presented at CVS today was provided to full City Council in City Manager's February 6<sup>th</sup> Weekly Report

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## Partnerships and Programming



### **2020 Youth & Young Adult Violence Reduction (Recommended Approach)**

- Engage
  - 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
- Assess
  - 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

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## Partnerships and Programming



- Develop 2021 – 2022 Action Plan
  - Unified approach (City, community, providers)
  - Highest and best use of Gun and Ammo Tax Revenue
  - Aligned with Equity and Empowerment Framework and Tacoma 2025

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## Gun Buyback Program



### The Pros

- Fewer unwanted firearms in community
- Community is mobilized to examine gun control and expands public awareness

### The Cons

- Target audience not likely to participate
- Reducing the number of guns in community not guaranteed
- Operationally costly
- Logistically challenging

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## Gun Buyback Program



**Fiscal Impact:** Assumes one-day event on a Saturday (10am-2pm)

Description of Item	Estimated Fiscal Impact
<u>Location:</u> Tacoma Dome Convention Center	\$2,500 rental fee, includes advertising on marquee
<u>Staffing:</u> Four officers and a Sergeant	\$4,000 of overtime
<u>Disposal:</u> Contract already exists	\$0
<u>Exchange for firearms:</u> \$50 gift cards (Assumes 200-400 firearms collected)	\$10,000-\$20,000 (no outside donations) \$5,000-\$10,000 (50% donations)
<u>Advertising:</u> Includes a press release, bus/train advertising, posters/flyers, a Public Service Announcement, and advertising on social media	\$11,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,500-\$37,500</b>

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## Gun Buyback Program



**Recommendation:** Not to proceed with a gun buyback program at this time

- While gun buyback programs do expand public awareness on gun related issues, initial research suggests programs do not decrease community gun violence
- City acquiring support of professional researcher to study best practices and effective programs, which may further inform City Council on effectiveness of gun buyback programs

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## Legislative Priorities



- The City of Tacoma's adopted 2020 legislative agenda includes gun violence prevention as a priority
  - **State agenda:** Monitoring proposals to regulate firearms and reduce gun violence
  - **Federal agenda:** Joining the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities urging the President to advance legislation to reduce gun violence and promote public safety

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## State Legislation



- HB 2240/SB 6077 concerning high capacity magazines
  - Sponsored by Rep. Valdez (D-Seattle) and Sen. Kuderer (D-Bellevue)
  - Makes it unlawful to manufacture, possess, sell, distribute, transport, or otherwise transfer a large capacity magazine (more than 15 rounds)
  - Many exemptions, including: Government officers, armed forces, those who legally possess large capacity magazines at the effective date, etc.

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## State Legislation



- HB 2241/SB 6076 concerning assault weapons and large capacity magazines
  - Sponsored by Rep. Peterson (D-Edmonds) and Sen. Kuderer (D-Bellevue)
  - Makes it unlawful to manufacture, possess, sell, distribute, transport, or otherwise transfer an assault weapon or large capacity magazine
  - Many exemptions, including: Government officers, armed forces, those who legally possess large capacity magazines at the effective date, etc.

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## Status of Legislation



- Mayor Woodards and Council Member Ushka provided letter of support to House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary for House Bills 2240/41 in advance of the Committee's hearing on the bills on January 21, 2020
- Legislation on high capacity magazines (SHB 2240/SB 6077) passed out of their committees of origin and are moving
- Legislation on assault weapons *and* high capacity magazines (HB 2241/SB 6076) are still in committees of origin

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## Next Steps



Event	Description
May 25, 2020*	Conduct Review and Report to City Council
July 1, 2020	Tax Implemented
November 2020	First Quarterly Receipt of Revenue
November 25, 2020 - Onward	Conduct Annual Review

\*City Manager to Conduct Review and Report to City Council Regarding:

1. Fiscal analysis, business impacts, programs and initiatives funded, and number of fire-arm involved criminal offenses
2. Review best practices
3. Convened workgroup outcomes

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## Questions / Feedback

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