



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Ryan Mello through Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Firearms and Ammunition Tax for Youth Violence Prevention**
DATE: August 22, 2019

I ask for your support for an Ordinance to be brought to Council to enact a firearms and ammunition tax.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Complete the information for the appropriate option and delete the remaining options

In light of the most recent shootings in Tacoma, El Paso, Dayton and Gilroy, and a continued focus on tackling gun violence nationwide and locally, I would like the City Manager to prepare an ordinance allowing the City to exercise its taxing authority to raise revenue for the purpose of youth and gun violence prevention efforts here in Tacoma.

This tax would be based on the Seattle model, which has been upheld by the Washington State Supreme Court and constitutes a tax of \$25 per firearm sold at retail, \$.02 per round of ammunition .22 caliber or less, and \$.05 per round of other ammunition sold at retail.

Exemptions would be made for persons who sell no more than one firearm or fifty rounds of ammunition per quarter, as well as an exemption for law enforcement.

The revenue raised would be directed toward violence prevention programs to offset the impact and cost gun violence has to our community.

This would be added to the Municipal Code as the “Fire and Ammunitions Tax”.

Furthermore, the action would direct the City Manager to bring recommendations to Council within 75 days that:

- Assists and empowers our local communities faced with gun violence, potentially in partnership with Pierce County, the Rising Above Influence (RAIN) program (formerly the Tacoma Gang Reduction Project), Puyallup Tribe of Indians and others, to help them to heal from the damage caused by gun violence in our communities and develop strategies together to further reduce youth and young adult gun violence,
- Makes recommendations for programming with youth and young adults 18 – 30 for to reduce gun violence with concepts such as community court or restorative justice and gang prevention and gang violence reduction for individuals not in a felony situation after consultation with partners such as RAIN, and
- Any other recommendations to reduce gun violence in our community, including state and federal legislative priorities and other measures to be led locally to improve gun safety and ensure guns do not get in to the wrong hands.

DESIRED ORDINANCE DATE: September 2019 to be preceded by a Study Session on the issue by the full City Council to give the time and space for all members to understand the issue and ask questions. This tax, if adopted, would go into effect January 1, 2020.

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following

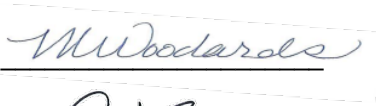
Livability: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.


If you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Rebecca Boydston at 253-519-5164 or rboydston@cityoftacoma.org

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member Ryan Mello

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS# Mayor

2.  POS# 4