



WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

October 24, 2019

Members of the City Council
City of Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. I am pleased to announce that the **City was awarded a “Community Impact Award” from the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium (TPCAHC) for the Affordable Housing Action Strategy.** The award was given at TPCAHC’s 8th Annual “Excellence in Affordable Housing Award and Fundraiser Celebration” on Thursday, October 17th. Below is the award information:

“The City of Tacoma developed its Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS) as an urgent response to a changing housing market, increasing displacement pressure among residents, and a widespread need for high-quality affordable housing opportunities for all. City of Tacoma staff compiled data, research, and community input and key stakeholder recommendations and presented a comprehensive report (AHAS) to the Tacoma City Council. Now adopted, the City has a blueprint of immediate and short term actions to create and maintain affordable housing and to help reduce barriers, allowing people to stay in their homes indefinitely.”

2. **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Human Services** have notified Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) staff that they are **researching how communities are responding to homeless encampments** with the goal of developing a roadmap or toolkit for communities across the U.S. They have engaged a consulting firm that will be studying four cities including Tacoma. The other communities are San Jose, Chicago and Houston. The firm has indicated to us that Tacoma was selected due to the availability of data related to our response to encampments.

NCS staff is tentatively scheduled to meet with the consultant here on October 28th. The consultant has already begun collecting information from the City’s website regarding the State of Emergency Declaration and recent study session presentations on homelessness. NCS will provide an update following the site visit.

3. The **October 30, 2019 Special Meeting of the Public Utility Board Agenda** is attached. Please note resolutions related to item U-11116 are tentatively scheduled for your consideration on November 5, 2019.

STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION

4. The **City Council Study Session** of Tuesday, October 29, 2018, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion items will include: (1) **Department of Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume Update**; (2) **Ensuring Safe, Clean and Sanitary Downtown**; (3) **Other Items of Interest**; (4) **Committee Reports**; and, (5) **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**.

At Tuesday's Study Session, the Washington State Department of Ecology staff will provide their **annual update on the Tacoma Smelter Plume Project**. The presentation will include a brief history of the project, an update on **work to address soil contamination, progress of soil sampling and replacement**, their work with developers to address contamination during development, and outreach and education efforts by the local Health Department.

For the second topic at Tuesday's Study Session, staff from Environmental Services' Solid Waste Management will present **multiple strategies to address blight, litter, and unsecure garbage containers to improve Tacoma's downtown streetscape**. In addition, Tacoma Police will provide information related to public safety concerns.

5. The updated **Tentative City Council Forecast** and **Consolidated Standing Committee Calendars** are attached for your information.

COUNCIL MEETING

6. On Tuesday's Council agenda is the Final Reading of **Ordinance No. 28623**, amending Chapter 12.09 of the Tacoma Municipal Code to add a **surcharge to offset the increased costs for the disposal of recyclable materials and recycling education programming**. During the First Reading last Tuesday, a number of questions were posed by Council Members. Environmental Services Director Mike Slevin provides the attached memorandum with responses.
7. On Tuesday's Council Agenda for Final Reading is **Ordinance No. 28624, imposing a tax on firearms and ammunition**. Please note a **proposed motion** for your consideration to amend the Ordinance **to exclude parts or components used to make firearms from the tax** in your agenda packets.

In addition, Council Member Thoms provides the **attached proposed amendment (#2) for your review and possible discussion at the Council's Study Session** Tuesday, under Other Items of Interest. The amendment adds a section for the City Manager to bring recommendations on how to use the funds raised from this tax to assist in developing and implementing a gun buyback program.

During the First Reading of the Ordinance, **Council Member Blocker inquired about potential B&O tax reductions paid to the City as a result of fewer purchases of these products.** Tax & License has identified eight potential retail establishments and nine potential pawnbroker establishments that may be subject to the Firearms & Ammunition Tax. The cumulative B&O tax paid by the retailers and pawnbrokers on all of their sales in Tacoma was \$218,000 in 2018. Some of the businesses identified are large retailers that sell a variety of goods and sales of firearms and ammunition only make up a portion of their total sales. Without more information, staff cannot estimate a potential loss if one or more of the businesses choose to discontinue their firearms and ammunition line of sales.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

8. The City has applied for the following grants:

- **Walters Road Utility Improvements Project** – Funding for treating residential stormwater runoff from 20.26 acres through removal of pollutants that weren't captured as part of the broader stormwater treatment plan to protect the estuary. The City is requesting \$564,386, with a match required of \$141,097, which will need to be included in future biennial budgets if the grant is awarded.
- **Watershed Prioritization Planning Project** – Funding to adapt an existing Puget Sound spatial decision support tool to identify and prioritize areas within the City that are most in need of stormwater improvement. The City is requesting \$453,827 with a match requirement of \$113,457, which will need to be included in future biennial budgets if the grant is awarded.
- **Enhanced Street Sweeping Project** – Funding to improve the water quality in the receiving waters by enhancing Tacoma's existing street sweeping project in order to reduce the pollutant loads. The City is requesting \$777,888 with a match requirement of \$259,296, which will need to be included in future biennial budgets if the grant is awarded.
- **Enhanced Maintenance – Line Cleaning Project** – Funding to provide for the cleaning of an estimated additional 100,000 to 150,000 lineal feet of storm line conveyance pipes in areas of Tacoma that have never been fully cleaned. The City is requesting \$278,573, with a match required of \$92,858, which will need to be included in future biennial budgets if the grant is awarded.

- **TAPE Approval of a Non-Proprietary Phosphorus Treatment in Stormwater** – Funding for field testing of a water treatment to remove phosphorus from stormwater. City is requesting \$137,313, with a required match of \$34,061, which will need to be included in future biennial budgets if the grant is awarded.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

9. You have been invited to the following events:

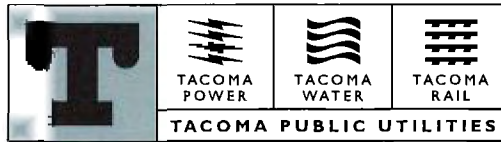
- **Community Health Care's 50 Years of Service Dinner Celebration on Wednesday, October 30th, 5:00 p.m.**, at the Bicentennial Pavilion at the Hotel Murano, located at 1320 Broadway.
- **South Sound Military & Communities Partnership Elected Official Council Event on Thursday, November 14th, 7:00 to 9:30 a.m.**, at the Eagles Pride Golf Course located at 116 Interstate 5.
- **Citizens for a Healthy Bay *Stand for Our Sound* Fall Fundraiser on Thursday, November 14th**, at the Pacific Seas Aquarium at the Point Defiance Zoo, located at 5400 North Pearl Street.
- Tacoma Arts Live presents the **74th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 30th**. Live music begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by the program at 6:00 p.m., in the Pantages Theater Lobby, located on 9th and Broadway.

Sincerely,



Tadd G. Wille
Acting City Manager

TGW:crh
Attachments



SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

**City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board**

**Wednesday, October 30, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

**Ground Floor Auditorium
Tacoma Public Utilities
3628 South 35th Street
Tacoma WA 98409**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Resolution U-11116 – Authorize Tacoma Power to declare surplus utility-owned property including certain inventory, equipment, and vehicles allocated to the Click! Network together with the excess capacity of the Tacoma Power HFC Network, part of which is used by what is commonly referred to as the Click! Network; and authorize execution of the Click! Business Transaction Agreement by and between Tacoma Power and Mashell, Inc., d/b/a Rainier Connect and Rainier Connect North LLC.
4. Adjournment

Special meeting materials:

<https://www.mytpu.org/about-tpu/public-utility-board/2019-agendas-minutes/>

Click! information:

<https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/projects/click-network-update/>



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the TPU Director's Office at 253-502-8201. TTY or speech to speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

**City of Tacoma 2019
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
October 29, 2019	City Council Study Session (TMB Council Chambers, Noon)	Department of Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume Update	WSDOE/PDS	WA Department of Ecology will be providing an update on the Tacoma Smelter Plume to include work to address soil contamination, soil replacement progress, and outreach and education efforts by the Health Department.
		Ensuring Safe, Clean and Sanitary Downtown	ESD/TPD	Staff from SWM will present multiple strategies to address blight, litter, and unsecure garbage containers to improve Tacoma's downtown streetscape. In addition, TPD will be there to discuss public safety concerns.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Public Hearing on the regarding proposed Click! Surplus Declaration	CAO	Public Hearing on the surplus and potential use of the excess capacity of the Tacoma Power Commercial network where the user pays for the capital and operating costs related to excess capacity while the <u>City retains full ownership of the Network</u> ; and, the surplus and potential sale of related inventory, equipment and vehicles.
		Final reading of the Environmental Services Proposed Surcharge for Commingled Recycling Ordinance and a Special Project Resolution	ESD	Resolution related to special project to provide education and outreach around waste reduction, recycling contamination issues, and how the residential recycling program is changing.

**City of Tacoma 2019
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
November 5, 2019	City Council Study Session (TMB Council Chambers, Noon)	Mid-Biennium Budget Modification Recommendations	OMB	The Mid-Biennium Budget Modification process is used to align the budget with changes that have occurred since budget adoption. The City Manager will provide the Council will recommended modifications that align with City Council priorities and/or tie to existing service level commitments.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Click! Resolutions - Declaring Surplus and Rainer Connect Agreement (tentative)	CAO	Resolution declaring surplus for the potential use of the excess capacity of the Tacoma Power Commercial Network where the user pays for the capital and operating costs related to excess capacity, while the <u>City retains full ownership of the Network</u> ; and, declaring surplus for potential sale of related inventory, equipment and vehicles. Resolution authorizing the City to enter into the proposed agreement with Rainier Connect for the use and operation of the surplus excess capacity of the Tacoma Power Commercial Network.
November 12, 2019	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Quarterly Affordable Housing Action Strategy Plan Update	CED/CMO	Quarterly update on implementation of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS) and actions taken by each of the 12 tactical action teams.
		Tacoma Dome Link Extension Update	PDS	Staff from PDS and Sound Transit will provide an update, including recent Sound Transit Board action and the next steps as the projects moves into the environmental review phase.
		Other Items of Interest - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Update	Mayor Woodards	Council Members will be updated on the work of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma and proposed next steps.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	*Final Reading of the Tideflats Interim Regulations Reauthorization Ordinance *Public hearings 2019-2020 Biennial Budget Mid-Biennium Modification & 2019-2020 Capital Budget	PDS	At the October 10th City Council Meeting, the final reading of this Ordinance was moved to the Nov 12th City Council agenda.

**City of Tacoma 2019
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
November 19, 2019	City Council City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Neighborhood Council Program Review	NCS	
		Emergency Declaration on Homelessness Extension	NCS	Request for Council authorization to extend the Emergency Declaration on Homelessness to December 31, 2020.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Final Reading of the Mid-Biennial Budget Modifications	OMB	
November 26, 2019	CANCELLED			

**City of Tacoma 2019
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
December 3, 2019	Joint City Council/Tacoma School Board Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Tacoma School Board and City Council Updates on Items of Mutual Interest	TPS/Council	Updates from Tacoma Schools and the City will be discussed on various topics of mutual interest: SummerJobs253, Mayor's Youth Commission, etc.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Ordinance for the Neighborhood Council Program Review First Reading	NCS	
December 10, 2019	Joint Utility Board Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	City-wide Draft Legislative Agendas	TPU/GG Government Relations	TPU and GG Staff will share the proposed Federal and State Legislative Agendas for review prior to Council consideration.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	*Resolution to establish the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma *Ordinance for the Neighborhood Council Program Review Final Reading	CMO NCS	
December 17, 2019	City Council Study Session (TMB Council Chambers, Noon)			
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)			
December 26, 2019	CANCELLED ** Please note there will not be a meeting on December 31, 2019. (Due to the holiday, this meeting will be moved to next business day, January 2, 2020 or cancelled)			

** Please note there will not be a meeting on December 31, 2019 (Due to the holiday, this meeting will be moved to next business day, January 2, 2020, or cancelled.)

Community Vitality and Safety			
Committee Members: Blocker (Chair), Beale, Thoms, Ushka, Alternate-Hunter Executive Liaison: Linda Stewart; Staff Support - Bucoda Warren		2nd and 4th Thursdays 4:30 p.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: • Citizen Police Advisory Committee • Human Services Commission • Human Rights Commission • Housing Authority • Commission on Disabilities • Library Board • Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority
October 24, 2019	Review of Policies Establishing Shelters for Homeless Individuals	Linda Stewart, Neighborhood and Community Services Director	A review of ordinance 28498 and Tacoma Municipal Code 13.06 to consider options for expanding the opportunity for nonprofit and religious organizations to establish homeless shelters on their property. Staff will present options for ordinance changes.
Future			
November 14, 2019	Citizen Police Advisory Committee Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	5 vacancies
	Chronic Nuisance Code Implementation (informational)	Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager and Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney	The updated Chronic Nuisance Code went into effect a year ago. Staff will provide an informational briefing on the implementation efforts related to the updated code.
	Code Compliance Pilot Update (Informational)	NCS	Update on receivership pilot program.
November 28, 2019	Canceled		


Economic Development Committee			
Committee Members: Thoms (Chair), Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka Alternate-Beale Executive Liaison: Tadd Wille; Staff Support - Lynda Foster		2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: •Tacoma Arts Commission •Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District •Foss Waterway •City Events and Recognition Committee
October 29, 2019	Green economy policy recommendations	Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, CED	Third presentation on the Tacoma green job economy, with staff recommendations for policy updates
	TPU Economic Development Strategic Plan	Michael Catsi, TPU's Economic Development Manager	Continuing the conversation from the EDC meeting on Sept. 24 on the new TPU Economic Development Strategic Plan, outlining initiatives and priorities.
Future			
November 12, 2019	Tacoma Arts Commission Interviews	Clerks Office	5 vacancies
November 26, 2019	Cancelled		

Government Performance and Finance Committee

Committee Members: Ibsen (Chair), Blocker, Hunter, Mello, Alternate-Thoms Executive Liaison: Andy Cherullo; Staff Support - Latasha Ware		1st and 3rd Tuesday 10 a.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: •Public Utility Board •Board of Ethics •Audit Advisory Board •Civil Service Board
November 5, 2019	Title 6 in response to HB1403	Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager	HB 1403 makes changes to the service apportionment tests, definitions and alternative apportionment process effective January 1, 2020. HB 1059 changes the due date for annual business & occupation tax filers to April 15 effective January 1, 2021
	Civil Service Board	Becky Summers	
Future			
November 19, 2019	Board of Ethics Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	2 vacancies
	Title 18 Employment Standards	Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager	A follow-up discussion on repealing the City's Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Ordinance. Labor & Industries will present on their investigation process and answer questions. Staff will provide follow-up on stakeholder outreach efforts.
December 3, 2019	CBC Review	Lisa Woods, Assistant to the City Manager	A review of current boards and commissions and how council assigns topics to them and creates/consolidates CBCs

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee			
Committee Members: Mello (Chair), Beale, Ibsen, McCarthy, Alternate-Hunter Executive Liaison: Kurtis Kingsolver; Staff Support - Rebecca Boydston		1st and 3rd Wednesdays 4:30 p.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: •Sustainable Tacoma Commission •Planning Commission •Landmarks Preservation Commission •Board of Building Appeals •Transportation Commission
November 6, 2019	Sustainable Tacoma Commission Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	2 positions open
	Electric Vehicle Updates	Lisa Rennie, Senior Power Analyst, Tacoma Public Utilities	A presentation from Tacoma Public Utilities regarding recent State legislation and related programming for electric vehicle adoption.
	Code Updates for Electric Vehicle Adaptation	Kristi Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability	
Future			
November 20, 2019	Landmarks Preservation Commission Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	
	Scooter and Bike Share	Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer, Public Works	
	Urban Forestry Management Plan	Mike Carey, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability	Present Urban Policy recommendations that would be incorporated into a resolution for Council Consideration on December 3, 2019
December 4, 2019	Healthy Homes, Healthy Neighborhoods (tent.)	Kristi Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability	Program Update



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director 
COPY: City Council
SUBJECT: Follow-up Questions; City Council– October 22, 2019
Re: Recycling Surcharge Ordinance Questions
DATE: October 24, 2019

The Environmental Services Department Solid Waste Management Division presented the ordinance to implement a Recycle Surcharge to address for changes to the residential curbside recycling programs in Tacoma at the City Council for first reading on October 22, 2019. A number of questions were posed by members of the Council at the meeting. The following provides answers to address these questions to the Council.

1. What are the reasons for changing the glass system to a drop off system?

The primary reasons that we are recommending that the glass system be changed to a drop off box system are:

- **Environmental impact:** The net benefit in terms of greenhouse gas emissions of the current curbside glass collection system is estimated to be a reduction of less than 40 tons of CO₂ per year. This is less than a 10th of a percent of the CO₂ emissions avoided by the curbside commingled recycling collected. This is because of the amount of fuel needed to collect glass curbside, and because glass does not generate greenhouse gases through biodegradation if it is not recycled, unlike other biodegradable organic materials such as mixed paper and cardboard. Even if the emissions from collection is ignored, the benefit from recycling 1600 tons of glass per year is still less than 300 tons CO₂ per year, which is still less than 1% of the CO₂ avoided by the curbside commingled recycling collected. Therefore, regardless of the collection system design, the greenhouse gas benefit is very small. The estimates of CO₂ reduced by recycling glass are based on data from the Glass Packaging Institute.
- **Inefficient system:** The curbside collection system is highly inefficient, because it requires a high level of labor, equipment, and fuel to collect a very small volume of material. In addition, the material is handled multiple times, to reload it into boxes for hauling to the recycling facility in Seattle. This results in an annual cost of \$765,000, or approximately \$460/ton glass collected. The high costs of this system outweighs the small benefit.
- **Employee injury risk:** The manual collection of glass creates a high risk of injury to the employees performing this work. Getting in and out of the trucks, manually lifting the glass bins to empty them into the truck, and the potential of exposure to broken glass in the bins or in the process of emptying bins are all risks inherent to the curbside collection of glass. In the period from 2015 to 2018, we recorded 11 glass collection related injuries. Glass collection accounted for almost 25% of the injuries that occurred in 2018.

2. Can you provide a comparison of the greenhouse gas impacts for the different options that were developed and presented in the customer survey?

The table below shows a summary of the options, with the projected annual tons of commingled recycling and glass that would be collected, and the estimated tons of CO₂ that would be avoided annually as a result. Option 1 assumes that in place of curbside commingled recycling, approximately 10% of the volume of recycling currently collected would be captured at drop-off recycling locations.

	Option 1 discontinue curbside commingled (landfill)	Option 2 curbside commingled + glass drop off	Option 3 & 4 maintain curbside commingled and curbside glass
Projected Annual Tons recycling collected	2502.8	17531	18365
Tons CO ₂ avoided	4657	46071	46093

3. Can you discuss if other alternatives for changing the curbside glass collection system were evaluated such as once a month glass collection?

We have reviewed several alternatives for different glass collection. As noted above, regardless of the collection system, the potential greenhouse gas benefits from recycling glass are small relative to other materials. Here is an overview of options discussed:

- **Once a month collection:** The option of collecting glass once per month instead of every other week would not result in much improvement of the system. The limiting factor for the glass collection process is the manual emptying of the glass from the bins into the truck. Reducing the collection frequency would reduce the total distance the collection trucks would travel, as they would have a smaller area to collect each week, but the number of stops and the volume of glass collected would not be reduced significantly, so the trucks would still be running for the close to the same time period, and therefore the fuel used and the emissions generated would only be slightly reduced. Additionally, this would require customers to store large amounts of glass, remember their collection day, and actually be at their residence that day to set it out. These factors could further frustration and confusion among customers who may forget their collection day, forget to set out their bin, or not be at their residence to set it out their bin that day, requiring them to store another month's worth of glass until it can be collected the following month.
- **Glass in commingled:** We have reviewed the possibility of including glass in the commingled recycling, which is a process used by many other jurisdictions. We determined that this was not a good solution because glass breaks in the collection process, and can become imbedded in the cardboard and paper materials, contaminating the other recycled materials. The glass product that is sorted out of the commingled stream is also very contaminated, and less valuable to glass recyclers. Including glass in the commingled degrades the value of all of the recycled materials and is counter to the increased emphasis on reducing contamination and improving recycled commodity quality.
- **Automated collection:** We previously conducted a pilot project to test automated glass collection, with glass collected in a container that could be emptied with an automated arm on the truck similar to our automated garbage trucks. This was thought to be a possible option to improve collection efficiency, and to reduce the

injury risk to our drivers. The results of this pilot showed that while it was feasible, it was more expensive, and therefore was not a viable solution.

- **Alternative fuels:** Electric collection truck technologies are in development today, but have not yet been proven in practice. While this may be an option in the future, it is not currently viable. Even with the use of alternative fuels, the benefits of collecting glass are still very small, and do not outweigh the costs of an inefficient system.

4. Can we monitor the cleanliness of the recycled materials, and track how glass is disposed of after the changes, and report back to the Council?

We will be monitoring the contamination levels of the commingled recycle materials to evaluate how effective the education and outreach efforts are at addressing contamination. We will also track the glass recycling volumes and can report back to the Council in mid-2020.



Req. #19-1144

Amendment #2

ORDINANCE NO. 28624

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS MELLO
2 AND USHKA

3 AN ORDINANCE relating to the tax code; imposing a tax on engaging in the
4 business of making retail sales of firearms and ammunition; amending
5 Subtitle 6A of the Tacoma Municipal Code by adding thereto a new
6 Chapter 6A.120, to be known as "Firearms and Ammunition Tax"; and
7 establishing an effective date.

8 WHEREAS, in 2017, 39,773 people died from gun-related injuries in the
9 United States, and

10 WHEREAS three quarters of all murders and approximately half of all
11 suicides in the United States in 2017 involved a firearm, and

12 WHEREAS, of the 22 homicides that have occurred in Tacoma in 2019,
13 19 involved firearms, and

14 WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2018, there has been an increase of 37 percent in
15 the number of criminal offenses in Tacoma involving firearms, and

16 WHEREAS, every year, 600 American women are shot to death by intimate
17 partners, and

18 WHEREAS, of all women shot to death by others in the United States, half
19 were shot by their intimate partners, and

20 WHEREAS basic research and prevention programs can reduce long-term
21 costs and save lives, but often need funding to get started, and

22 WHEREAS, due to successful efforts by the gun lobbyists, funding for
23 research into the causes of gun violence has been blocked at the federal level since
24 1996, and
25
26



1 WHEREAS the creation of a revenue source through a tax on the sale of
2 firearms and ammunition would provide public benefits for residents of Tacoma
3 related to gun violence by providing a portion of the funds needed for programs that
4 promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and address, in part, the cost of gun
5 violence in the City, and
6

7 WHEREAS the revenue generated from this tax will be used to offset a
8 portion of the impact and cost that gun violence has on our community by being
9 directed toward programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence, target
10 youth and young adult violence prevention, and other programs intended to reduce
11 violence and promote community healing, and
12

13 WHEREAS the proposed tax would be based on an ordinance passed in the
14 City of Seattle, which has been upheld by the Washington State Supreme Court,
15 and constitutes a tax of \$25.00 per firearm sold at retail; \$0.02 per round of
16 ammunition .22 caliber or less; and \$0.05 per round of other ammunition sold at
17 retail, and
18

19 WHEREAS, further, the City Council is directing the City Manager, within
20 75 calendar days of the date of this ordinance, to bring recommendations to the
21 City Council that:
22

23 (1) assist and empower our local communities faced with gun violence,
24 potentially in partnership with other agencies and entities, to help them heal from
25 the damage caused by gun violence in our community, and to develop strategies
26 together to further reduce youth and young adult gun violence;



1 (2) make recommendations for programming with youth and young adults,
2 ages 18-30, to reduce gun violence with concepts such as community court or
3 restorative justice and gang prevention and gang violence reduction for individuals
4 not in a felony situation, after consultation with partners, and

5 (3) any other recommendations to reduce gun violence in our community,
6 including state and federal legislative priorities and other measures to be led locally
7 to improve gun safety and ensure that guns do not get into the wrong hands, and

8 (4) make recommendations on how to use the funds raised from this tax to
9 assist in developing and implementing a gun buyback program, and
10

11 WHEREAS this proposed tax, if adopted, would go into effect January 1,
12 2020; Now, Therefore,

13 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

14 Section 1. That the City finds and declares that gun violence directly affects
15 the City and its residents. Therefore, the City intends to exercise its taxing
16 authority, as granted by the Washington State Constitution, as authorized by the
17 Washington State Legislature, and as affirmed by the Washington State Supreme
18 Court in *Watson et al v. City of Seattle*, 189 Wn.2d 149 (2017), to raise general
19 revenue for the City and to use that revenue to provide broad-based public benefits
20 for the residents of Tacoma related to gun violence by funding programs that
21 promote public safety, prevent gun violence, target youth and young adult violence
22 prevention, and other programs intended to reduce violence and promote
23 community healing and address, in part, the cost of gun violence in the City.
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1 Section 2. That Subtitle 6A of the Tacoma Municipal Code is hereby
2 amended by the addition thereof of a new Chapter 6A.120, to be known and
3 designated as "Firearms and Ammunition Tax," to read as set forth in the attached
4 Exhibit "A."

5 Section 3. That the taxes authorized in Section 2 of this ordinance shall
6 become effective January 1, 2020.

7 Section 4. That the City Manager is hereby directed, within 75 calendar days
8 of the date of this ordinance, to bring recommendations to the City Council that:

9 (1) assist and empower our local communities faced with gun violence,
10 potentially in partnership with other agencies and entities, to help them heal from
11 the damage caused by gun violence in our community, and to develop strategies
12 together to further reduce youth and young adult gun violence;

13 (2) make recommendations for programming with youth and young adults,
14 ages 18-30, to reduce gun violence with concepts such as community court or
15 restorative justice and gang prevention and gang violence reduction for individuals
16 not in a felony situation, after consultation with partners; and

17 (3) make any other recommendations to reduce gun violence in our
18 community, including state and federal legislative priorities and other measures to
19 be led locally to improve gun safety and ensure that guns do not get into the wrong
20 hands, and



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(4) make recommendations on how to use the funds raised from this tax to assist in developing and implementing a gun buyback program.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

TITLE 6 TAX AND LICENSE CODE

Chapters:

SUBTITLE 6A TAX CODE

- Chapter 6A.10 General Tax Provisions
- Chapter 6A.20 Admission Tax
- Chapter 6A.30 Business and Occupation Tax
- Chapter 6A.40 Communications Tax
- Chapter 6A.50 Electricity Business and Solid Waste Collection
- Chapter 6A.60 Gambling Tax
- Chapter 6A.70 Local Option Taxes
- Chapter 6A.80 Special Excise Tax
- Chapter 6A.90 Natural or Manufactured Gas Tax
- Chapter 6A.100 Utilities Gross Earnings Tax – Public Utilities
- Chapter 6A.110 Property Tax Exemptions for Multi-Family Housing
- Chapter 6A.120 Firearms and Ammunition Tax

* * *

Chapter 6A.120

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TAX

Sections:

- 6A.120.010 Definitions.
- 6A.120.020 Persons subject to tax – rates.
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6A.120.010 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter:

“Ammunition” means any projectiles with their fuses, propelling charges, or primers designed to be fired from firearms. Ammunition shall include any shotgun shell and any rifle, pistol, or revolver cartridge.

“Round of ammunition” means a single unit of ammunition.

“Antique firearm” means a firearm or replica of a firearm not designed or redesigned for using rim fire or conventional center fire ignition with fixed ammunition and manufactured in or before 1898, including any matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system and also any firearm using fixed ammunition manufactured in or before 1898, for which ammunition is no longer manufactured in the United States and is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.



1 "Family or household member" means "family" or "household member" as used in
2 RCW 10.99.020.

3 "Firearm" means a weapon from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive
4 such as gunpowder.

5 "Licensed dealer" means a person who is federally licensed under 18 U.S.C. 923(a).

6 **6A.120.020 Persons subject to tax – rates.**

7 A. There is imposed a tax on every person engaging within the City in the business of making
8 retail sales of firearms or ammunition. The amount of the tax due shall be equal to the quantity of
9 firearms sold at retail and the quantity of ammunition sold at retail multiplied by the applicable
10 tax rates that are stated in Section 6A.120.020.B.

11 B. The tax rate shall be \$25 per firearm sold at retail, \$.02 per round of ammunition that contains
12 a single projectile that measures .22 caliber or less sold at retail, and \$.05 per round of
13 ammunition for all other ammunition sold at retail.

14 **6A.120.030 Deductions.**

15 A. In computing the tax, the taxpayer may deduct from the measure of the tax in this chapter all
16 firearms or ammunition:

17 1. That the taxpayer delivers to the buyer or buyer's representative at a location outside the state
18 of Washington.

19 2. That the taxpayer sells to an office, division, or agency of the United States, or the state of
20 Washington or any of its municipal corporations.

21 B. In computing the tax, the taxpayer may deduct from the measure of the tax all sales of antique
22 firearms.

23 **6A.120.040 Exemptions.**

24 A. A person who sells no more than one firearm within the City in any quarterly reporting period
25 is exempt from the tax in this chapter for that period.

26 B. A person who sells fewer than 50 rounds of ammunition within the City in any quarterly
reporting period is exempt from the tax in this chapter for that period.

C. A licensed dealer is exempt from the tax for retail sales of firearms in which the licensed
dealer's only role is to facilitate sales of firearms between two unlicensed persons by conducting
background checks under chapter 9.41 RCW.