

BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER

A RESOLUTION directing the City Manager to convene a Gun Violence Reduction Workgroup comprised of representatives from Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma-based firearms manufacturers and retailers, community partners, and City of Tacoma staff to review approaches to address gun violence in the City that includes recommendations with fiscal analyses to be shared with the appropriate Council Committees by March 1, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to request that the City Manager study the various state, federal and local definitions of "firearm," analyze how much revenue could be raised if the City imposed a "Firearms" tax based on the various definitions of "firearm," and how much tax could be raised if a similar tax was imposed on manufacturers of firearms, and

WHEREAS the City Council further wishes to direct the City Manager to bring local stakeholders together to discuss the best path forward to reduce gun violence in our community.

WHEREAS the extent of the need for funding to support public safety, prevent gun violence, and address, in part, the cost of gun violence in the City could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time the City adopted its biennial budget;

WHEREAS the City Council acknowledges that preventing gun violence is a shared value in the community no matter one's opinion on a given gun violence prevention policy.

Now,

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Sec. 1. That the City Manager is directed to convene a Gun Violence Reduction Workgroup comprised of representatives from Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma-based firearms manufacturers and retailers, community partners, and City of Tacoma staff to review approaches to address gun violence in the City that includes recommendations with fiscal analyses to be shared with the appropriate Council Committees by March 1, 2020.