



RESOLUTION NO. 40472

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR McCARTHY, COUNCIL MEMBERS HUNTER
2 AND THOMS

3 A RESOLUTION directing the City Manager to identify \$30,000 in the mid-
4 biennium budget modification for expenses for funding programs that
5 promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and help offset the cost of gun
6 violence in the City; and directing the City Manager to review and bring
7 recommendations to the City Council on how to use said funding to promote
8 public safety, prevent gun violence, and address, in part, the cost of gun
9 violence in the City of Tacoma.

10 WHEREAS the City is facing an increase in gun violence; between 2014
11 and 2018, the number of criminal offenses involving firearms has increased
12 37 percent in Tacoma, and of the 22 homicides that have occurred in Tacoma in
13 2019, 19 involved firearms, and

14 WHEREAS, at the City Council meeting of October 22, 2019, the City
15 Council held the first reading of an Ordinance amending the Tacoma Municipal
16 Code by creating a new Chapter 6A.120, Firearms and Ammunition Tax, and

17 WHEREAS a similar tax in Seattle has been shown to raise considerably
18 less than the projected revenues and has contributed to the closure of local
19 businesses, and

20 WHEREAS the Seattle tax has also demonstrated declining revenues each
21 year it has been in effect, and that after implementing the tax, Seattle spent
22 considerable funds in legal fees litigating the legality of the tax, and

23 WHEREAS given the lessons from Seattle, the proposed Tacoma tax does
24 not, at present, appear to provide a sustainable or significant funding source for
25 gun violence prevention programs, and
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WHEREAS at present, the potential harm caused by this tax to Tacoma
1 revenues to address gun violence and to Tacoma businesses, has not been
2 thoroughly vetted, and

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4 WHEREAS in Tacoma, the potential impacts of the proposed tax on local
5 business, local employees, and tax revenues has not been adequately
6 investigated, and

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8 WHEREAS directing mid-biennial funding in the amount of \$30,000 to
9 support programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and address, in
10 part, the cost of gun violence in the City would provide public benefits for residents
11 of Tacoma by providing a portion of the funds needed for programs for this
12 purpose, and

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14 WHEREAS securing these funds ensures unequivocally that the City will, at
15 a minimum, match and contribute the additional revenues sought by the tax to
16 address gun violence, and

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18 WHEREAS the City Council is requesting that the City Manager review and
19 bring recommendations to the City Council on how to use said funding to:

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

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25 (2) make recommendations for programming with youth and young adults,
26 ages 18-30, 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; and

(3) make 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 that guns do not get into the wrong hands; and Now, Therefore,

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

Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to include one-time funding in the amount of up to \$30,000 in the mid-biennium modification for expenses related to supporting programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and address, in part, the cost of gun violence in the City.

Section 2. That the City Manager is further directed to review and bring recommendations to the City Council on how to use said funding to:

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

(2) make recommendations for programming with youth and young adults, ages 18-30, 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; and

(3) make 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 that guns do not get into the wrong hands.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney