



ORDINANCE NO. 28677

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER

2 AN ORDINANCE amending Amended Substitute Ordinance No. 28624,
3 relating to Firearms and Ammunition Tax, to change the effective date
4 of the tax from July 1, 2020, to a date to-be-determined by City Council
5 in January 2021, and provide for review by the City Council in January
6 2021, the requirements for gathering information, conducting
community and stakeholder outreach, and reports to the City Council,
and making this ordinance retroactive to July 1, 2020.

7 WHEREAS the City Council passed Amended Substitute Ordinance
8 No. 28624 on November 12, 2019, and

9 WHEREAS the amended Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to Tax
10 Code, added a new Chapter 6A.120, entitled "Firearms and Ammunition Tax,"
11 ("Tax") to impose a tax on firearms and ammunition to consist of \$25.00 per
12 firearm sold at retail, \$0.02 per round of ammunition (.22 caliber or less), and \$0.05
13 per round of other ammunition sold at retail, and
14

15 WHEREAS the purpose of the Tax is to raise revenue for funding programs
16 that promote public safety, prevent gun violence, and help offset the impacts and
17 costs of gun violence in the City, effective July 1, 2020, and

18 WHEREAS the Ordinance also required the City Manager to make
19 recommendations, by February 8, 2020, on potential partnerships and
20 programming to reduce youth and young adult gun violence, a gun buyback
21 program, local, state, and federal legislative priorities, and to conduct a review and
22 report to the City Council, by May 25, 2020, regarding: (1) revenue generated from
23 the tax; (2) changes in B & O taxes received from tax within City limits; (3) factual
24 information on businesses closed after the effective date of the ordinance; (4) a list
25
26



1 of programs, projects, initiatives, and other efforts funded with the tax revenue;
2 (5) the number of firearm-involved criminal offenses in the City during the
3 preceding 12 month period; and (6) multiple actions including review of existing
4 gun and youth violence reduction groups, convening a workgroup to include
5 representatives from Tacoma Public Schools (“TPS”), Tacoma based firearms
6 manufacturers and retailers, community partners, City staff, and members of the
7 Tacoma Police Department (“TPD”), review of best practices to address gun and
8 youth violence reduction, and review and presentation of fiscal analysis to include
9 costs of expending current programs and fiscal impact of any future firearms and
10 ammunition tax on local gun vendors and manufacturers, and
11
12

13 WHEREAS, on February 13, 2020, Assistant City Manager Tadd Wille
14 proposed the following recommendations to the Community, Vitality, and Safety
15 Committee: (1) potential partnerships and engagement to expand services and
16 grassroots efforts to improve the social intervention network, engage key subject
17 matter experts, identify, convene and mobilize the Community Advisory
18 Committee, and select a fiscal agent to administer funding for grassroots efforts;
19 (2) programs to reduce youth violence, which would include provider service
20 delivery efficacy, community skills and spheres of influence, the scope and scale of
21 issues being addressed, challenging old thinking and norms around this work and
22 revising approaches to improve outcomes, and develop outcomes aligned with
23 performance indicators; and (3) not proceeding with a gun buyback program, and
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHEREAS due to the current State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic (“Emergency”), staff was unable to convene community workgroups and gather information that was required to be reported to the City Council by May 25, 2020, and

WHEREAS during the Emergency, the City is focusing its resources on its emergency response, as well as essential City services, and

WHEREAS given the uncertainty around the duration of the Emergency, it is unknown when the community workgroups could be scheduled and convened, and

WHEREAS changing the City Manager’s report date from May 25, 2020, to a future date, and moving the implementation date of the Tax to a date to-be-determined by the Council in January 2021, will allow additional time for review by the City Council in January 2021 of the requirements for gathering information, conducting community and stakeholder outreach, and reports to the City Council, and

WHEREAS without a retroactivity clause, and in the ordinary course of legislative process, this Ordinance would not go into effect until July 13, 2021; so that no new tax is collected based on the original effective date of July 1, 2020, this ordinance will be retroactively applied to July 1, 2020; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Section 2. That Amended Substitute Ordinance No. 28624, relating to “Firearms and Ammunition Tax,” (Tax”) is hereby Amended to change the effective date of the Tax from July 1, 2020, to a date to-be-determined.

Section 3. That a requirement for a report by May 25, 2020, is canceled, and a meeting by the City Council in January of 2021 will allow for review of the requirements of gathering information, conducting community and stakeholder outreach, and reports to City Council.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall have retroactive effect as of July 1, 2020.

Section 5. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney