



Firearms and Ammunition Tax

Ordinance #28624

City of Tacoma
City Council Study Session
June 23, 2020



Purpose/Agenda



- Ordinance Overview
- Timeline of Events
- February and May Updates
- Recommendation

Overview of Substitute Ordinance #28621



- Adopted on November 12th, 2019
- Imposes tax on businesses making retail sales of firearms and ammunition starting July 1, 2020
 - \$25 per firearm sold
 - \$0.02 per round of ammunition for .22 caliber or less
 - \$0.05 per round of ammunition for all others
 - Estimated \$30,000 in annual revenue
- Directs City Manager to make recommendations and review impacts of tax, its revenues, research best practices, and convene workgroup

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Original Timeline



Event	Description
November 12, 2019	Ordinance Adoption
November 25, 2019	Ordinance Effective Date
February 8, 2020	Initial Recommendations to City Council
May 25, 2020*	Conduct Review and Report to City Council
July 1, 2020	Tax Implemented
November 2020	First Quarterly Receipt of Revenue
November 25, 2020 - Onward	Conduct Annual Review

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* Due to COVID-19, staff was unable to conduct and submit this report



In February, City Staff shared with City Council recommendations and met with Community Vitality and Safety Committee (CVS) on:

- Potential partnerships and engagement
- Programs to reduce youth violence
- Evaluation of gun buyback program (not to proceed)
- Shared ways City would work to reduce gun violence through local, state, and federal legislative efforts

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In May, City Staff included a status update in a City Manager Weekly Report recognizing inability to complete the following ordinance requests due to COVID-19 Emergency:

- Convene workgroup to include representatives from TPS, Tacoma based firearms manufacturers and retailers, community partners, City Staff (to include TPD)
- Hire consultant to review best practices to address gun and youth violence reduction

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Recommendation



Due to inability to meet all ordinance requirements due to COVID-19 Emergency, staff recommends:

1. Changing effective date of tax from July 1, 2020 to a date to-be-determined by City Council in January, 2021
2. Providing for review by City Council in January, 2021 requirements for gathering information, conducting community and stakeholder outreach, and reports to City Council

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