



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 3, 2018

Motion 15233

Proposed No. 2018-0367.3

Sponsors Kohl-Welles and McDermott

1 A MOTION establishing a firearm safety task force to
2 develop strategies to reduce the impact of firearm injury
3 and death in King County through the identification and
4 implementation of intervention strategies based on proven
5 public health methodologies; and requiring a report and
6 implementation plan.

7 WHEREAS, in 2018, through July 16, 2018, there have been thirty-one-thousand
8 five-hundred sixty-one incidents of gun violence nationally, including seven-thousand
9 eight-hundred eighty-five firearms related deaths in the United States, which averages to
10 about forty gun related deaths per day, and

11 WHEREAS, since January 2013, there have been twenty-five mass shootings that
12 have occurred in Washington state, that have resulted in forty-seven persons being killed
13 and seventy-one being wounded, and

14 WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, whether from intentional
15 or accidental use, undermines the sense of security that all persons should have in their
16 communities, and

17 WHEREAS, the most-recent available Washington state Department of Health
18 data show that firearms are the third-leading cause of injury-related death in Washington
19 state, killing approximately six-hundred twenty-five Washington residents each year

20 between 2009 to 2013, and firearms were involved in one in six of all deaths among
21 youth ages fifteen to twenty-four, and

22 WHEREAS, according to the Washington state Department of Health, in 2015 in
23 King County there were five-hundred thirty-five suicide deaths and one-hundred sixty
24 homicides caused by firearms, and one hundred forty-six residents died from a gun
25 injury, and

26 WHEREAS, in King County, more people die from firearms than car crashes,
27 making firearm injury one of the leading preventable causes of death, and

28 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015
29 firearm fatalities cost almost two hundred million dollars in medical costs and lost
30 productivity in King County, and

31 WHEREAS, according to various Public Health - Seattle & King County analysis
32 on firearm violence in King County, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on
33 communities of color and that children of color are victims of homicide by firearms at a
34 higher rate than white children in King County, and

35 WHEREAS, a 2018 study that included a broad survey of Washington residents
36 found that thirty-four percent of adults surveyed reported having a firearm in their
37 households, of which, almost one-in-five reported that the firearms were not stored in a
38 safe manner even when the respondents reported that they had children in the homes,
39 suffered from depression and suicidal thoughts or engaged in the significant consumption
40 of alcohol, and

41 WHEREAS, local governments in Washington state have taken steps that work to
42 increase gun safety, including encouraging safe firearm storage through the LOK-IT-UP

43 program and enforcement of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in King County, and

44 WHEREAS, while these programs provide positive steps for improving firearm
45 safety and reducing firearm-related deaths, there is no coordinated countywide effort
46 among law enforcement, public health, suicide prevention agencies, youth-serving
47 agencies, community groups and other stakeholders for King County residents for
48 reducing injury and death from intentional and unintentional shootings, and

49 WHEREAS, there have been successful approaches to reducing impact of injuries
50 and deaths in the realms of tobacco use, unintentional poisoning and motor vehicle safety
51 through comprehensive public health responses that included regulation, education and
52 safety measures, and

53 WHEREAS, King County could potentially reduce firearm-related deaths and
54 injuries through a comprehensive, coordinated, multidimensional public health strategy
55 informed by other public health successes;

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

57 A. The executive shall convene a firearm safety task force to prepare a report that
58 makes recommendations for the development of a comprehensive, coordinated public
59 health strategy informed by other public health strategies that have succeeded in reducing
60 deaths and injuries to determine if these types of strategies can reduce firearms-related
61 deaths and injuries. The task force shall develop strategies for intervention programs
62 based on the proven public health methodologies that have reduced tobacco use and
63 deaths, motor vehicle-related injuries and death, death and injury from poisoning, heart
64 disease deaths and any other successful effort, to reduce and limit the impact of firearm-
65 related deaths and injuries in King County.

66 B. The task force shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the
67 following organizations and agencies:

68 1. The city of Seattle and King County board of health and department of public
69 health;

70 2. The University of Washington, Harborview Medical Center and the
71 University of Washington's School of Medicine, School of Health and School of Social
72 Work;

73 3. First-responder agencies, such as fire and emergency medical services;

74 4. Local law enforcement agencies;

75 5. Youth-serving agencies;

76 6. Suicide prevention agencies;

77 7. The department of community and human services;

78 8. The prosecuting attorney's office;

79 9. The office of performance, strategy and budget; and

80 10. The Washington state Department of Health.

81 C. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the development of a listing and
82 description of potential strategies and programs that would provide in the county:

83 1. Universal preventive interventions for entire populations without regard to
84 individual risk factors and are intended to reach a very large audience, such as school-
85 based programs facilitating healthy social development and proven programs that
86 reducing aggressive behavior among children and adolescents;

87 2. Selective preventive interventions for target subgroups of the general
88 population that are determined to be at risk for firearm injury, such as, suicide prevention

89 interventions for older males; and

90 3. Indicated preventive interventions for specific individuals showing signs of
91 the risk of firearm violence, such as the development of conflict resolution interventions
92 for young men who have been arrested for possession of a firearm.

93 D. The executive shall develop as part of its report, an implementation plan,
94 based on the work of the task force, including a description of each identified
95 intervention strategy, the agency that should have responsibility for implementation of
96 the strategy, an estimated schedule for implementation and the executive's estimated
97 resource requirements for implementing the identified intervention strategies.

98 E. By July 1, 2019, the executive shall file its report in the form of a paper
99 original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original

100 and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers and the lead staff of the health,
101 housing and human services committee, or its successor.
102

Motion 15233 was introduced on 7/30/2018 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/1/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 0



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None