



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16180

Proposed No. 2022-0221.2

Sponsors Dembowski, Zahilay, Kohl-
Welles, McDermott, Balducci and Perry

1 A MOTION requesting the King County executive assess
2 the feasibility of establishing a year-round voluntary safe
3 firearm and ammunition return program within the King
4 County sheriff's office.

5 WHEREAS, as of May 26, 2022, there have been 231 mass shootings in the
6 United States this year where 4 or more people have been shot, 27 of which occurred in
7 schools, and

8 WHEREAS, the racist attack in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, 2022, killed 10
9 innocent people, and 10 days later, the May 24, 2022, shooting at an elementary school in
10 Uvalde, Texas killed 19 fourth graders and two teachers and seriously injured many
11 others, both physically and mentally, and

12 WHEREAS, gun violence killed more than 45,000 people in the United States last
13 year including through homicides, suicides and accidental deaths, with suicides making
14 up more than half of all gun related deaths, and

15 WHEREAS, gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teens up
16 to 19 years old in the United States, and

17 WHEREAS, with only 4 percent of the world's population, the United States
18 possesses nearly 46 percent of all civilian-owned firearms in the world, which is 393
19 million out of an estimated 857 million civilian-owned firearms worldwide, and

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20 WHEREAS, like the rest of the nation, King County is suffering under an
21 increase in gun violence, and

22 WHEREAS, in 2021, according to data from the King County prosecutor, the
23 total number of shots fired in King County was up approximately 54 percent, the number
24 of overall shooting victims was up 70 percent, and the number of shooting fatalities was
25 up 54 percent over the 4-year average from 2017 through 2020, and

26 WHEREAS, the 460 shooting victims reported in 2021 were disproportionately
27 people of color at 81 percent and 48 percent of fatal and nonfatal victims identified as
28 Black, and

29 WHEREAS, King County has implemented programs and policies to increase gun
30 safety, including requiring the destruction of forfeited firearms, encouraging safe firearm
31 storage and enforcement of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and

32 WHEREAS, voluntary firearm and ammunition return programs have proven to
33 be effective in removing firearms from homes and communities and provide
34 opportunities to educate residents about gun violence reduction strategies;

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

36 A. The council requests the King County executive to assess the feasibility of
37 establishing a year-round voluntary safe firearm and ammunition return program within
38 the King County sheriff's office.

39 B. The assessment of the feasibility of the voluntary safe firearm and ammunition
40 return program should evaluate, but not be limited to:

41 1. A process by which any individual may peaceably deliver and abandon any
42 unwanted firearm or ammunition to any King County sheriff's office location at any time;

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43 2. A process by which an individual can request that a King County sheriff's
44 deputy or authorized sheriff's office employee retrieve unwanted firearms or ammunition
45 from a specified location;

46 3. The destruction or disposal of all unwanted firearms and ammunition
47 voluntarily relinquished to the King County sheriff's office;

48 4. The provision of monetary or other incentives to encourage community
49 participation in the program;

50 5. The capacity of the King County sheriff's office to hold one or more special
51 buy-back events each year; and

52 6. The cost to administer the program.

53 C. Based on the evaluation requested in section B of this motion, the executive
54 should further assess whether the voluntary safe firearm and ammunition return program

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- 55 could be developed and implemented in collaboration with local jurisdictions throughout
56 King County.

Motion 16180 was introduced on 6/7/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/26/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

Claudia Balducci

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None