

Re: Questions about the Gun Tax Program

February 11, 2016

Hi David,

Thanks for your email about the gun violence tax.

The City's department of Finance and Administrative Services will be collecting this tax. It is due on a quarterly basis, so they won't have their first collection until later in April.

According to the ordinance, the tax proceeds can be spent on:

Section 13. The purpose of the Firearms and Ammunition Tax Fund authorized in Section 12 12 above is to provide broad-based public benefits for residents of Seattle related to gun violence 13 by funding programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence and address in part the 14 cost of gun violence in the City. Such public benefits may include, but are not limited to, basic 15 research, prevention and youth education and employment programs, and the administrative 16 costs to manage the fund and make tax system modifications as needed.

There have been no specific allocations of this funding yet (that will be done through the normal budgeting process), but the City did fund out of the general fund for 2016 a hospital-based gun violence intervention program at Harborview hospital. From the 2016 budget book:

Enhance Gun Violence Prevention and Place-Based Violence Prevention - \$325,000

The 2016 Budget adds \$50,000 in new funding, and repurposes \$200,000 of SYVPI funding to support a community and place-based violence prevention initiative to reduce youth victimization and crime. Based on research by George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy that revealed that youth crime is highly concentrated in small places, this approach focuses on non-arrest solutions to bring about positive youth outcomes. This work was previously supported by a Department of Justice Grant.

The budget also includes \$275,000 for a two-year pilot program on gun violence prevention. Funding for the second year will be reviewed in the 2017 budget process, with potential leverage considered. In 2013 Harborview Injury Prevention and the Research Center of the University of Washington conducted a study to evaluate the interrelationships between substance abuse, mental health diagnosis, gun ownership, gun violence injury hospital admissions, and deaths. The study found that there are a small number of individuals admitted annually to hospitals in King County for firearm related injuries, and interventions with these individuals have the potential to reduce the high risk of recidivism, and reduce gun violence in the city. The 2016 pilot will expand on this work, and will include: 1) intervention with gunshot would victims during their hospital stay or at a follow-up visit; 2) dedicated case management outreach following discharge from the hospital; and 3) multi-agency attention to the gunshot would victims.

Thanks,
Nate

Nate Van Duzer

Legislative Aide

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