



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 3, 2018

Motion 15234

Proposed No. 2018-0372.3

Sponsors McDermott and Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to engage and
2 collaborate with King County youth and young adults and
3 their family members to develop a report on gun violence
4 amongst youth and young adults.

5 WHEREAS, the most recent available Washington state Department of Health
6 data show that firearms are the third leading cause of injury-related death in Washington
7 state, killing approximately six hundred twenty-five Washington residents each year
8 between 2009 to 2013, and firearms were involved in one in six of all deaths among
9 youth ages fifteen to twenty-four, and

10 WHEREAS, the Washington state Department of Health data also show that one
11 hundred forty-six King County residents died from a gun injury in 2015 including six
12 children age seventeen and younger. Statewide, thirty-nine children, who are age
13 seventeen and younger, died as a result of firearms that same year. That is the equivalent
14 of a child or teen being killed by gunfire every nine days. King County children
15 represent fifteen percent of all children killed as a result of firearms statewide, and

16 WHEREAS, between 2013 and 2015, the Washington state Department of Health
17 data show that twenty-five youth, age seventeen and younger, died by suicide in King
18 County, of which seven used firearms. Statewide, one hundred eighteen youth died by
19 suicide in Washington and forty-seven of these youth died from firearm suicide. King

20 County youth represent twenty-one percent of youth suicide and fifteen percent of suicide
21 from firearm statewide, and

22 WHEREAS, the Washington state Department of Health data also indicate that
23 ninety-five King County residents were hospitalized for nonfatal firearm injuries,
24 including nine youth, age seventeen and younger, in 2015. Statewide, three hundred
25 eight Washington state residents were hospitalized for nonfatal firearm injuries in 2015,
26 including thirty children under eighteen years old. King County residents represent thirty
27 percent of all nonfatal firearm injuries statewide and approximately thirty percent of all
28 nonfatal firearm injuries among children, and

29 WHEREAS, the January 21, 2014 Annals of Internal Medicine report finds that
30 adolescents, between the ages of ten and nineteen years, with access to firearms are 2.6
31 times as likely to die by suicide as adolescents without access to firearms, and

32 WHEREAS, the December 2008 Journal of Adolescent Health study of
33 adolescent (between the ages of ten and nineteen years) suicides by firearm found that
34 over half were carried out with firearms from the adolescent's home. More than seventy-
35 five percent of firearms used in suicide attempts and unintentional injuries were stored in
36 the residence of the victim, a relative, or friend, and

37 WHEREAS, according to Public Health - Seattle & King County's ongoing
38 analysis, monitoring and dissemination of data on firearm violence in King County,
39 firearm violence has a disproportionate impact on communities of color and children of
40 color are victims of homicide by firearms at a higher rate than white children in King
41 County, and

42 WHEREAS, the Washington state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

43 estimated thirty-four percent of Washington adults eighteen years and older, which is one
44 million eight hundred twenty-five thousand people, reported having a firearm in or
45 around their home in 2015. Just under half of these adults, which is forty-six percent or
46 eight hundred thirty-nine thousand people, reported having an unlocked firearm. Access
47 to firearms, including storage practices, are a known risk factor for firearm suicide -
48 especially among youth age seventeen and younger, and

49 WHEREAS, only twenty weeks into 2018, there have already been at least
50 twenty-one shootings on elementary, middle and high school and college campuses in the
51 United States, which averages to about 1.1 per week, and those shootings include a
52 February 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida,
53 and a May 18 shooting at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, and

54 WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in
55 Washington state, four of which resulted in injury or death, and

56 WHEREAS, during the 2015-2016 school year, the Washington state
57 Superintendent of Public Instruction reported one hundred thirty incidents involving a
58 firearm on school premises, transportation systems or school facilities, which resulted in
59 sixty-two suspensions and thirty expulsions and, of these, twenty-one suspensions and
60 fifteen expulsions were in school districts located in King County, and

61 WHEREAS, according to the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, in 2016,
62 eleven percent of eighth-grade students, sixteen percent of tenth-grade students and
63 twenty-three percent of twelfth-grade students in King County reported that they would
64 not be caught if they carried a handgun without parental permission, and

65 WHEREAS, according to the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, in 2016,

66 four percent of King County tenth-grade and twelfth-grade students reported having
67 carried a gun on at least one day during the last thirty days, and

68 WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the
69 sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments, and

70 WHEREAS, local governments in Washington state have taken steps that work to
71 increase gun safety, including encouraging safe firearm storage through the LOK-IT-UP
72 program and enforcement of extreme risk protection orders in King County, and

73 WHEREAS, sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for King
74 County youth and young adults by reducing injury and death from intentional and
75 unintentional shootings, and

76 WHEREAS, the 2015 City of Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Needs
77 Assessment report found that engaging and receiving consultation from youth and
78 families who are most impacted by violence is necessary to identify strategies to address
79 systemic issues of violence amongst youth and young adults;

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

81 A. The executive is requested to engage and collaborate with King County
82 children and young adults and their family members to develop a report on gun violence
83 amongst youth and young adults.

84 B. The executive should engage and collaborate with King County youth and
85 young adults that are either at-risk of or have experience with the issue of gun violence.

86 C. The executive should use engagement and collaboration methods that may
87 include, but not be limited to, individual and family interviews, focus groups and
88 community meetings.

89 D. The youth and young adult report should include, but not be limited to, the
90 following:

91 1. A comprehensive inventory of existing county programs that focus on youth
92 violence prevention and intervention and other community-based efforts in the county,
93 such as Best Starts for Kids, Community Correction, Juvenile Justice Data and the
94 Family Intervention and Restorative Services Program, which is also known as FIRS,
95 Gang Violence Intervention and Prevention initiatives and the Gun Violence Prevention
96 Initiative; and

97 2. Methods and findings from the interviews and focus groups with youth,
98 young adults, their families and providers who work with youth and their families on
99 issues related to gun violence.

100 E. The youth and young adult report should inform recommendations and
101 strategies to prevent youth and young adult gun violence.

102 F. The executive should present the findings in the youth and young adult report
103 to the following:

104 1. Youth, young adults and their family members who participated in focus
105 groups, interviews and community meetings;

106 2. The King County Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Committee that
107 includes representatives of law enforcement, civic groups and the King County
108 prosecuting attorney's office;

109 3. Existing county programs that focus on youth violence prevention and
110 intervention and other community-based efforts in the county that impact youth and
111 young adults such as Best Starts for Kids and Zero Youth Detention;

112 4. The juvenile justice equity steering committee; and

113 5. Other county committee or task force charged with developing

114 recommendations and strategies to prevent youth and young adult gun violence.

115 G. The executive should develop recommendations on how the county can
116 support and strengthen community-based organizations' efforts to curb gun violence.

117 H. The executive should develop a final comprehensive report that includes the
118 youth and young adult report and the recommendations as mentioned in sections E. and
119 G. of this motion and transmit the report, and a motion accepting the report, by October
120 1, 2019, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy to the clerk of the council,
121 who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the

122 council chief of staff, the policy staff director and the lead staff for the committee of the
123 whole, or its successor.
124

Motion 15234 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Joseph McDermott", written over a horizontal line.

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza", written over a horizontal line.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None