



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

Pursuant to Motion 16180, please find enclosed the Voluntary Safe Firearm and Ammunition Return Program Feasibility Report and a proposed Motion, which, if approved, would acknowledge receipt of the report.

King County Public Health declared gun violence a public health crisis in 2013, and the King County region continues to experience increasing gun violence. Using a public health approach, King County is working to address gun violence through multiple strategies, including the potential expanded use of a voluntary gun surrender program.

For many years, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) has accepted unwanted firearms at precincts. Surrendered guns are managed by KCSO's Property Management Unit. The feasibility assessment requested by the King County Council provided KCSO the opportunity to review existing policies for safe firearm and ammunition return and expand those processes and procedures to promote safe firearm returns. Additionally, funding provided by the County Council in the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget will allow KCSO to hold several gun buyback events in 2023, ultimately using financial incentives to support the surrender of unwanted firearms.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Council on strategies to decrease gun violence and promote safer communities throughout King County.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Chief Jeff Flohr at 206-263-9156.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

February 28, 2023

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Patti Cole-Tindall, Sheriff, King County Sheriff's Office