



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
www.kirklandwa.gov

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** James Lopez, Assistant City Manager  
David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator  
Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator  
Christian Knight, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator  
Jairid Hoehn, Customer Service Supervisor  
Shawn Friang, Human Resources Analyst  
Patrick Tefft, Volunteer Services Coordinator

**Date:** July 9, 2018

**Subject:** GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTREACH FINDINGS REPORT AND PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX MEASURE SURVEY RESULTS

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

- Receive the report on findings from community engagement and outreach conducted in response to Resolution R-5312 on the topics of gun safety and community safety;
- Receive the results of the EMC survey on a potential public safety and community safety sales tax measure;
- Provide staff with direction on next steps.

## **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

In January 2017, the Mayor issued a proclamation declaring the City's values around being a safe, inclusive and welcoming community and committing to the development of a program to promote a community conversation about those values. On February 21, 2017, the Council took further action by formalizing the themes in the proclamation through approval of Resolution R-5240 [see A-page 2 in Attachment A]. The resolution included direction to staff to take further actions including:

- Review Kirkland's policies and programs and possible Council actions that keep Kirkland a just society that respects and welcomes all people.
- Invite the community to come together to discuss and support the shared values of diversity and inclusion.
- Identify actions the City and community can take to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive City for all people.

## **Gun Safety and School Safety**

The issues of gun safety and school safety have been around for decades, but the tragic killing of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018, reignited the debate in communities around the nation, including in Kirkland. At the March 6, 2018, Council meeting, the City Attorney provided the Council with a short briefing on the state preemption of most actions by local governments related to gun regulations. The City Attorney also highlighted some actions the City has taken where it does have authority, such as the policy to destroy any guns seized by Police that are not needed as evidence.

On March 14, 2018, the City Council welcomed over 70 parents from various Kirkland schools to City Hall to discuss potential actions that could be taken to keep students safe from gun violence. On March 21, 2018, the Lake Washington School District and the City of Kirkland hosted a community discussion about school safety and community action at Lake Washington High School Theater. Both the March 14 and March 21 events included a presentation by the City Attorney on the state preemption of most actions by local governments related to gun regulations, and public feedback provided at both events included requests to City Council to work through the City's legislative delegation to move legislation related to gun safety and gun regulation.

At the City Council meeting on April 17, 2018, public comment was provided that requested Council to adopt a resolution to "Save Lives through Gun Safety" which called for the City to take action on gun safety and community safety and to engage the community for input on these topics [see A-page 4 in Attachment A]. The Council requested that staff draft such a resolution for review and possible adoption at the May 1, 2018, Council meeting, Resolution R-5312.

On April 20, 2018, seven students from Kamiakin Middle School walked out of school as part of a national walk out in recognition of the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting that occurred in Columbine, Colorado, in 1999. Those seven students came to City Hall to request the City take action to protect students from gun violence and to inquire about how they may address the Council.

On April 23, 2018, the City Clerk received a petition, now formally designated as Petition G-18-233, calling for the Council to adopt a gun safety resolution at the May 1, 2018, Council meeting. The petition organizers submitted an addendum with additional signatures on April 30, 2018. In total, Petition G-18-233 consists of 184 signatures and 58 letters of support.

The above events demonstrate active interest from members and groups in the community concerning what can be done at the local level related to gun safety and community safety, as well as possible state legislative agenda priorities. However, there are significant constitutional and legal constraints around what can be done locally. The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution states "The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain or employ an armed body of men."

State law also provides for the “preemption” of almost all firearms regulations by the State of Washington. For example, RCW 9.41.290 provides, in part, that the State “hereby fully occupies and preempts the entire field of firearms regulations within the boundaries of the state, including the registration, licensing, possession, purchase, sale, acquisition, transfer, discharge, and transportation of firearms, or any other element relating to firearms or parts thereof, including ammunition and reloader components.” Pursuant to that same statute, local governments can enact only those regulations that are specifically authorized by state law. Presently, those authorizations are narrowly limited to the unsafe discharge of firearms, the possession of firearms in a stadium or convention center, and the proximity of gun sales establishments to schools. See RCW 9.41.300.

The City Council adopted Resolution R-5312 [see A-page 5 in Attachment A] on May 1, 2018, which called for further community engagement on the topics of gun safety and community safety. Further engagement with the community, particularly inviting a wide range of views on the topics of gun safety and community safety, would provide feedback to the City Council ahead of the formation of the City’s 2019 legislative agenda-setting process. The City has also begun outreach efforts to engage the public in the 2019-2020 biennial budget. As in any budget process, there is not sufficient resources to provide funding for every community request. Knowing public sentiment on the topics of gun safety and community safety in relation to other budget priorities will provide feedback to the City Council in the adoption of the 2019-2020 biennial budget and 2019-2020 City Work Program.

Resolution R-5312 authorized the City Manager to: seek the community’s input on the topics of gun safety and community safety through a Town Hall and additional engagement strategies; research methods of promoting safe and responsible gun ownership at the state and local levels; collaborate with public and private partners on possible state and local legislation around gun safety and community safety; and report the results of these efforts to the City Council, no later than July 17, 2018. Finally, the resolution calls for the report to include options for potential changes to City ordinances and policies, City budget initiatives, and the City’s state legislative agenda based on the community engagement results.

This memo constitutes the report to Council on community outreach findings on the topics of gun safety and community safety.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Strategic Approach to Community Engagement**

The City Council was briefed by the Assistant City Manager at the February 23, 2018, Council Policy Retreat on a new strategic approach to community engagement that emphasizes creating capacity both in the community and within the staff. In this context, capacity refers to the knowledge of civic processes, leadership and organizational skills, and increased participation in the feedback process. In this way, the community engagement undertaken in response to Resolution R-5312 was done to not only fulfill the direction of the Resolution, but also as part of a longer-term strategy to continue to increase the level of effective civic participation of the Kirkland community.

One component of this strategic approach to community engagement was the formation of an informal, interdepartmental outreach service team that consists of the staff listed at the beginning of this memo. At the direction of the Assistant City Manager, this team crafted the outreach strategy and techniques to collect community feedback as specified in Resolution R-5312 and oversaw the implementation of the outreach plan. The outreach team relied primarily upon the methodology of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), a robust framework used internationally for conducting community engagement in support of sustainable decisions. Staff utilized the IAP2 process both in the formulation and execution of the community feedback collection process.

## **Techniques Used for Community Engagement**

As directed in Resolution R-5312, staff sought a wide range of perspectives from the community in this outreach effort. Staff relied heavily on the City's standard methods of communicating about feedback opportunities, including press releases, the City's weekly email newsletter, and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor).

Additionally, staff provided short presentations about the gun safety and community safety outreach initiative at the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods and Inclusion Network meetings. Staff also purchased space in the Kirkland Reporter (print and online versions) in order to advertise the Town Hall event. A full schedule of communication methods is listed in **Table A1 – Schedule of Communication Methods** on A-page 7 in Attachment A.

In all communications, staff sought to proactively address implicit bias that they, as individuals, might unconsciously bring to this process. As such, staff sought guidance on language use and outreach strategies from leaders from Kirkland's Neighborhood Associations who self-identified as firearm owners, as well as from other community leaders.

Staff identified four techniques for community engagement in this process: Focus Groups, Town Hall, Public Comment (including staff interviews), and KirklandTalks community dialogues. What follows is a detailed description of each technique's structure and purpose in the community engagement plan and a summary of the options discussed by the community as part of the entire outreach effort. The summary of options is organized by both the outreach technique (Focus Groups, Town Hall, Public Comment) as well as the type of Council action needed for change (i.e. changes to City ordinances and policies, City budget initiatives, and the City's state legislative agenda).

## **Focus Groups: Methodology**

The Assistant City Manager briefed Council at the February 23, 2018, Council Retreat regarding the Change & Innovation Agency, the City's selected consultant for improving the City's performance management system. One key element of this consultant's work with the City was a training conducted on May 8, 2018, that instructed more than 20 staff how to facilitate focus groups using the Change & Innovation Agency's methodology.

The majority of the outreach team attended this training, and the methodology learned through the training was adapted by staff to suit the needs of this particular feedback and outreach

process. In general, the benefit of this focus group methodology is in learning insights into what constitutes a successful program, service, or process. The Change & Innovation Agency's methodology relies on knowing beforehand what program, service, or process is being explored. However, as staff were seeking to collect ideas from the community on programs, services, processes, and legislation, staff adapted the focus group process to both collect ideas as well as to learn what constitutes successful implementations of those ideas.

The format for all the focus groups was as follows:

1. Staff provided a short introduction briefly describing the context and origin of Resolution R-5312, followed by the guidelines of the focus group. The guidelines provided to the focus groups included that all feedback was anonymous, that staff were present to collect input and insight and to facilitate conversation, and to please be respectful of the possibility of differing views.

2. Participants were provided the focus group prompt:

*The City Council seeks input from the community on methods of promoting safe and responsible gun ownership at the state and local level in order to reduce mass shootings, homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. What might the City do in support of these goals?*

3. Participants then individually wrote down all their ideas in response to the prompt for five to ten minutes and were instructed to identify their top idea. Staff then prompted each participant to share their top idea, which staff dictated onto a poster or electronic document that was visible on screen for all to view.
4. When all of the "top ideas" were listed on display, staff then asked the focus group to decide as a group which of the listed ideas the group wanted to explore in more depth.

For each of the "top ideas" the group wanted to explore in more depth, and for which there was time, staff followed a simple structure to garner more information:

- a. If the idea wasn't yet a specific program, service, process, or piece of legislation, staff would ask questions such as "What might the City do in support of that?" in order for the group to cohere on a specific item.
- b. If the idea was a specific program, service, process, or piece of legislation, or once staff followed the above process to help the group arrive at one, staff would then write on a fresh poster or electronic document line: "A successful (insert program, service, process, or piece of legislation) is or has \_\_\_\_\_." Staff asked the participants to fill in the blank of the sentence, and staff would list all of the provided responses on the poster or displayed electronic document for transparency and accuracy.

At the end of the focus group, staff would collect qualitative feedback about the efficacy of the focus group itself, which was shared with the rest of the outreach team and informed subsequent focus groups. Focus group sessions generally lasted between one and two and a half hours. Staff conducted a total of nine focus groups using the above format.

As indicated in Table 1 below, five focus groups were initiated and recruited by staff, while four focus groups were scheduled in response to requests by members or groups in the community.

**Table 1: Schedule of Focus Groups**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>INITIATOR</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
June 11	Youth Council Group 1	Staff	15
June 11	Youth Council Group 2	Staff	15
June 12	KirklandSafe	Community	8
June 14	Police Explorers	Staff	6
June 14	Faith-based Group	Community	4
June 15	School-aged Parents Group	Staff	4
June 25	Firearm Owners Group	Staff	7
June 26	PTSA Group	Community	6
June 28	General Community	Community	11
			<b>TOTAL: 76</b>

It should be noted that staff reserved timeslots for two additional Firearm Owner focus group sessions on June 27 and June 29 and were only able to fill the June 25 session. Recruitment for those specific focus groups were supplemented by support from the aforementioned Neighborhood Leaders who self-identified as firearm owners, which was in addition to the general recruitment offered through the press release, Town Hall announcement, and social media.

### **Focus Groups: Results**

Staff has organized all focus group feedback into 12 “top ideas” that were explored in depth by the focus groups. As described in detail in the **Focus Groups: Methodology** section, the “top ideas” were those programs, policies, or laws which participants prioritized and most wanted to discuss in greater detail.

It is worth emphasizing that many of these “top ideas” were not prioritized by all groups. Participants from the firearm owner group, for example, did not select some of the same priorities as several of the other groups. Staff has identified which groups showed most interest in a given idea under “top idea” name in the list below.

Staff has also organized each of the “top ideas” according to the type of Council action needed for change (i.e. changes to City ordinances and policies, City budget initiatives, and the City’s state legislative agenda).

## **City Ordinances, Policies and/or Budget**

### 1. School Resource Officer Program

Groups: PTSA, General Community

Participants interested in this option suggested the City research other cities and municipalities to see what programs have been most effective in schools across the country. They noted that school resource officers in uniform with firearms may alienate those who need help the most.

Others pointed out that in some cases, talented officers who have a passion for working with youth can build relationships and reduce the stigma of officers in uniform. In nearly every focus group, there was a healthy but respectful debate between using police officers versus well-trained mental health counselors.

***In the end, groups concluded that what mattered most is that the individual (officer/counselor) have mental health training, know age appropriate behavior modification, and are able to develop trusting relationships with the students.***

Participants suggested that before expanding the school resource officer program, officials should spend time defining the goals of the program and outlining the roles of the officers/counselors.

Other comments included:

- Don't just add more uniform officers with firearms.
- Keep in mind that the trained professionals can help avert a crisis long before it happens.
- They should have de-escalation training and anti-bias training. Equally important is training in age-appropriate techniques.
- Arming teachers is not the answer (although some members of the Firearm Owners focus group suggested properly licensed gun owners should be allowed to carry firearms in schools.)
- The School Resource Officer Program could help with active shooter training and scenario training (enactments) in the classrooms.

### *Background information on Kirkland's School Resource Officer Program*

The Kirkland Police Department has had a successful collaborative partnership with the Lake Washington School District (District) to provide a commissioned law enforcement officer, assigned to each high school as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for many years. The contract between the City of Kirkland and the District clearly states, in part:

*"...that the goal of the program is to foster a positive image of police officer among young people and must have the ability to deal effectively with a diverse student population while providing good quality educational services in the area of law enforcement..."*

The Department is an accredited agency through the Washington Association of Sheriff and Police Chief's and has a policy manual that specifically provides a purpose and scope for the School Resource Officer Program. The SRO program is designed to form a partnership between the school administrations, teachers and most of all students while providing a safe environment. The goals and objectives include such things as:

- Create a greater respect for law and order in the public school system and minimize criminal activity.
- Identify youth in danger of becoming known to the criminal justice system and work with them to help them choose a more positive and socially acceptable way to conduct themselves.
- Maintain a regular office on campus to connect with youth in need of services.
- Provide classes on substance abuse education, search and seizure, criminal law, motor vehicle law.
- Participate in student counseling and parent conferences when appropriate.
- Coordinate and supervise security measures at school activities in conjunction with the school administration.
- Be a positive role model for youths through positive interaction and projection of professional image. Mentor and coach while building relationships.
- Provide safety training for staff on maintaining a safe and secure environment.

There are currently two SRO's who are assigned to Lake Washington High School and Juanita High School. Both are fully commissioned, certified police officers who have successfully graduated from a Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Washington's academy is 720 hours in length. Each of the SRO's have also taken advanced training specific to working with students that includes but is not limited to:

- National & State School Resource Officer Basic and Advanced courses
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Child Interview and Interrogation
- Active Shooter Response Training
- Missing Children and Child Abuse Investigation
- Domestic Violence Investigations
- Verbal de-escalation training

Since attending the Academy, SRO King has over 662 hours of advanced training, with 240 of those hours being applicable to being a School Resource Officer. SRO Davidson, has over 730 hours of advanced training with 327 hours being applicable to the SRO assignment.

The SRO's very rarely take enforcement action but rather refer poor behavior back to the District. They interact with numerous students each day as social contacts to build rapport, trust, and coach and mentor those experiencing difficulties. Another focus of the program is to work with truant youth who are more at risk for poor academic performance, dropping out of school and substance abuse. The SRO's support the District by serving "Becca's Law" truancy paperwork so that student's parents are informed of unexcused absences and the possible juvenile court consequences.

## 2. Firearm Safety Awareness Campaign

Groups: Faith Based, KirklandSafe

Participants presented an idea to develop a City supported, community wide firearm safety awareness program similar to CERT, Police Department's Citizen Academy or the City's recycling program. Additional ideas related to a general awareness on gun ownership included:

- Including a school component and make sure it is multigenerational and adaptable to diverse cultures;
- Informing people about responsibilities, liabilities, and laws around firearm ownership, safe storage, and firearm locks;
- Helping people identify suspicious behavior and create a tip line for anonymous reporting;
- Educating the public about suicide prevention.

## 3. Firearm Ownership Training Program

Groups: Police Explorers, PTSA, Firearm Owners, KirklandSafe, School-aged Parents

Contributors to this idea suggested that the City research other jurisdictions across the country to get best practices on firearm training and be given the resources to develop a free training and education program for firearm owners. The program could be administered either through the City or another organization with firearm experts. The program would be similar to driver's education before you get a license but differentiated for the specific firearm being purchased.

Characteristics of the program could include:

- Explaining responsibilities and legal liabilities of firearm ownership.
- Required reporting for transfer of ownership as well as lost and stolen firearms.
- Demonstrating safe handling and storage of firearms.
- Providing discounted or free trigger locks.

Groups interested in this option also discussed the importance of the City having the authority to remove firearms (with due process) from people who are considered dangerous. Participants also reinforced support for the idea of penalties to individuals who are not following regulations and have consequences for someone who brings firearms to school. There was also discussion of creating incentives for the firearm buy-back programs and direct resources for the City to destroy and buy-back firearms.

Although these items could also fall in the legislative action section of the report, some focus group participants advocated that the Washington State Patrol be allowed to destroy firearms in their buy-back program, and that the City Council endorse initiative 1639 (which includes a firearm safety training course requirement).

4. Mental Health Awareness Campaign

Groups: Faith-Based, Firearm Owners, General Community

Another “top idea” concerned creating a community-wide mental health awareness campaign (in conjunction with the school district). The campaign would feature mental health professionals, knowledgeable in best practices and coordinated across agencies and municipalities, implementing strategies to demystify issues around mental health while providing guidance on warning signs for suicide prevention and firearm violence. Program features would include:

- Providing a safe place for reporting suspicious behavior;
- Not allowing bullying and instituting consequences for perpetrators;
- Providing mental health resources and safe places for families and individuals;
- Including training for student ambassadors and have periodical check-ins with individuals who need help;
- Creating a mental health resources web site.

5. Mental Health Awareness Campaign in Schools

Groups: Police Explorers, School-aged Parents

Similar to the ideas discussed above, participants also focused on creating a mental health awareness curriculum directly in the schools based on research and best practices. Similar to physical education classes, there would be a dedicated classroom and curriculum around mental health. The program would start at an early age but focus mostly in middle school. The program would include dealing with emotions and consent around a person’s physical body and teach children what it means to be healthy and how to resolve conflicts in a healthy way.

**State Legislative Agenda**

6. Enforcement Program

Groups: Firearm Owners

Several participants suggested that the Council take a leadership role in clarifying ambiguous gun laws and develop well-funded and efficient education and enforcement programs. They noted that laws must be clear, consistent, have due process and consequences and that police must be willing to act and allow no deviation to the law.

Members highlighted the need to promote safeguards and to protect the authenticity/integrity of the information used in the system (such as databases and registries) while also emphasizing the need for authorities to prioritize accurate and timely reporting of prohibited persons. Some participants suggested appointing a civilian review board for system accountability.

7. Ban on Assault Rifles and Semi-Automatic Firearms

Groups: Faith-Based

Although only one focus group focused on it as a “top idea”, several focus groups identified a desire, based on best practices from other cities and counties, to ban assault rifles and semi-automatic firearms. Suggestions included starting with the lowest hanging fruit by first prioritizing what is feasible. Participants also suggested pursuing a ban at the county and state level and making no exceptions to the rule.

8. Required Background Checks

Groups: KirklandSafe

Another “top idea” was to establish comprehensive (or enhanced) background checks at time of purchase for all firearm owners and every type of firearm. This idea included developing a database across all levels of government to track firearm ownership with crime and mental health records. Members supported rejecting the sale of firearms to people who are guilty of a felony, are mentally unstable, have been involved in hate organizations, or have a history of violent crime. Members also suggested prohibiting the sale of firearms to people who are on a 72-hour watch. Additional ideas included:

- Maintaining records and take firearms away if someone has violated the ownership requirements.
- Involving family members during the firearm checking process.
- Making no exception to the background check rules.

9. Ordinance Requiring Firearm Locks and Responsible Storage

Groups: KirklandSafe

Focus group members put forth the suggestion to require all firearm owners to register their firearm locks along with their firearms. As part of this proposal, authorities would set standards and requirements for firearm locks. Additional characteristics of the proposal could include:

- Subsidizing or giving away firearm locks that meet standards;
- Increasing resources for smart firearm technology;
- Imposing serious consequences for firearm owners who do not have or use firearm locks and making no exceptions to these rules.

10. Firearm Licensing Program

Groups: General Community

Focus group members suggested creating a required (or voluntary) two-week firearm licensing program similar to a driver’s license conducted by experienced professionals. Characteristics of this program could include:

- Requiring recertification every 1-2 years with a test at the end. There was discussion about instituting a 1% tax on firearm sales to pay for the licensing program;
- Including firearm safety inspections in the home;

- Specializing the classes based upon the type of firearm and proper techniques for each type;
- Providing free locks;
- Raising awareness like driver's education with videos showing consequences of mishandling firearms;
- Making sure the owner and family are aware of suicide issues and accessibility risks;
- Possibly including a mental health evaluation component to the program.

#### 11. Open Carry Law

Groups: KirklandSafe

Focus group members proposed creating a city-wide ban (or extended to certain targeted locations) on the open carry of firearms. This proposal included developing laws at the local level and pursuing legislation at the county and state level. The proposal also included imposing criminal penalties for violators.

#### 12. Safe Storage Permit Program

Groups: Faith-Based

Several participants proposed that at the time of sale, firearm owners be required to obtain a safe storage permit before obtaining possession of the firearm (all types of firearms and all owners). Characteristics of this law would include conducting onsite inspections to insure safe storage and documenting who has access to the storage and involve family members in the inspection. Additional program requirements discussed included:

- Requiring locks be checked and firearms and ammunition be separated;
- Conducting safe storage training for all members of the family;
- Requiring mandatory time-sensitive reporting of stolen and lost firearms (this can likely be done at the local level);
- Making firearm owners legally responsible for their firearms (stolen or lost);
- Penalizing firearm owners who do not lock firearms or follow the safe storage requirements;
- Developing regulations/program at the local level and pursue at the County and State level.

As mentioned, the 12 "top ideas" detailed above are those items that were chosen by the focus groups to explore in more detail. A full account of all the ideas brought up in all the focus groups can be found in **List of Ideas from the Community** on A-page 8 in Attachment A.

### **Town Hall: Methodology**

At the Council Retreat on February 23, 2018, Council indicated a preference for Citywide, topical Town Halls as a valuable method for the Council to directly engage and dialogue with the community. As such, staff proposed to conduct a Town Hall that involved a wide variety of perspectives on the topic of gun safety and community safety as one method of collecting public input. Utilizing a Town Hall as a part of the outreach plan was approved with the adoption of Resolution R-5312. The Town Hall occurred on June 20, 2018, at Lake Washington High School Theater as a Special Meeting of the City Council.

In an effort to guide the event planning process, staff identified three outcomes for the Town Hall, which were also explicitly named by the Mayor during her opening remarks at the event and were periodically shown on screen. Those event outcomes were:

1. Arrive as a community, leave as a community
2. Speak your mind
3. Identify common ground

Due to the topic's potential for debate, staff determined, based on past experience and training, that an intentional structure for the event would provide a container within which effective feedback could be collected and community dialogue could emerge. Staff structured the event around the following four themes or topics, which were informed by Section 2 of Resolution R-5312:

1. State and local legislation on firearm safety
2. Improved enforcement of existing laws and regulations
3. Education and training programs to support responsible firearm ownership
4. Mental health support and initiatives

In support of the first event outcome, "arrive as a community, leave as a community", staff invited all attendees to write their response to the prompt "what does safety mean to you?" as the attendees were arriving to the event. Staff immediately collected attendee's cards for display on a board in the patio area and photographed each card. At periodic intervals, those photographs were transferred to the presentation computer in the theater and displayed on the theater's screen. This resulted in a slideshow of responses for all attendees to see as they awaited the beginning of the event.

In total, 83 responses were collected by staff. A transcription of all "What does safety mean to you?" card responses is provided on A-page 15 in Attachment A.

The same response cards were used for attendees to sign up to provide public comment. The back of the card listed the four themes provided above with spaces for attendees to provide their name next to the theme on which they wished to speak. When attendees provided the cards to staff, and after the front side was photographed as outlined above, staff organized the cards by theme/topic. All cards for a given theme/topic were then placed in a bucket from which the Deputy Mayor drew at random throughout the night.

In total, 26 community members provided public comment, and all attendees who submitted their cards to staff were given the opportunity to speak.

Understanding that there would potentially be more attendees who wished to speak than could be accommodated due to the event's time constraints, staff utilized a system of live polling at the event. This was done so in an effort to support all three of the Event Outcomes. Each of the approximately 210 community members that attended the event was provided a small electronic pad (referred to as "the Vote-a-tron" by staff) to input their selection to twelve questions that were presented on screen throughout the evening.

Three types of questions were used with the live polling system, each with different intentions:

- **Ice-breaker** – for attendees to become familiar with the live polling technology and to add strategic levity to the event (2 total questions);
- **Demographic** – to inform attendees, including Council, about characteristics of those present, such as neighborhood of residence (if Kirkland residents), parental status, and firearm familiarity/ownership (5 total questions);
- **Policy** – to provide data on the opinions of those present regarding various potential programs, services, or legislation the Council might consider related to the Town Hall topic (5 total questions).

Lastly, additional ways to give feedback were provided. It was emphasized throughout the night and in each attendee’s printed program how to contact by various means if attendees wanted to provide written comment, be part of a focus group, be interviewed, provide feedback on the Town Hall event itself, or participate in a KirklandTalks community dialogue.

### **Town Hall: Results**

Staff has organized Town Hall results into 2 sections. The first section contains data in response to the five policy questions regarding the potential programs, services or legislation the Council might consider in response to Resolution R-5312. The second section categorizes the 26 spoken public comment presented at the Town Hall according to type of Council action.

#### **Live Polling Results - City Ordinances, Policies and/or Budget**

1. **Prompt:** *The Lake Washington School District has committed 50% of the funding required for new school resource officers in Kirkland middle schools. The Kirkland City Council should fund the other 50% in order to provide school resource officers in the middle schools.*

<b>Options</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	18	10%
Disagree	7	4%
Neutral	15	8%
Agree	58	33%
Strongly Agree	78	44%
None of the Above	1	1%

2. **Prompt:** *The Kirkland City Council should increase police enforcement of gun laws by adding more community-based police officers.*

<b>Options</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent*</b>
Strongly Disagree	24	12%
Disagree	15	8%
Neutral	35	18%
Agree	68	34%
Strongly Agree	54	27%
None of the Above	3	2%

3. **Prompt:** *The Kirkland City Council should fund community-wide firearm safety education, which features school programs, safe firearm storage and trigger locks.*

Options	Responses	Percent*
Strongly Disagree	22	12%
Disagree	5	3%
Neutral	24	13%
Agree	57	31%
Strongly Agree	75	41%
None of the Above	1	1%

\*rounding to the nearest whole number resulted in a percentage total of 101%

4. **Prompt:** *The Kirkland City Council should fund mental health services and suicide prevention programs in the schools and in the community.*

Options	Responses	Percent*
Strongly Disagree	5	3%
Disagree	8	4%
Neutral	15	8%
Agree	48	26%
Strongly Agree	108	58%
None of the Above	3	2%

\*rounding to the nearest whole number resulted in a percentage total of 101%

5. **Prompt:** *Which one of these local policies or legislation options do you support the most?*

Options	Responses	Percent
Enforce existing firearm laws better	49	26
Ban firearm discharges in areas where unsafe	14	8
Limit sale of firearms near schools	2	1
Tax on firearm and ammunition sales	18	10
More school resource officers/mental health counselors	41	22
Firearm buybacks	13	7
Require reporting of lost and stolen firearms	23	12
Do not change current local policies or legislation	17	9
I don't know	9	5

A full account of the live polling questions and responses are provided on A-page 18 in Attachment A.

## **Spoken Public Comment Results**

Staff summarized the key points of each of the Town Hall spoken public comments, which is provided in Table 2 below. A full account of each speaker's comments are available by watching the video of the Town Hall online: <https://youtu.be/rStkcjMcsA4>

**Table 2: Spoken Public Comment Categorized by Council Action**

<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>State Legislative Agenda</b>	<b>City Ordinances, Policies and/or Budget</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>1</b>	Ban assault weapons.		
<b>2</b>			It is the individual's responsibility for defense of self and (potentially) the state.
<b>3</b>	Teachers should not carry firearms.		
<b>4</b>	Do not pass legislation that has no effect (example: related to specific aspects of firearms such as grip style).	Support safe storage at home.	
<b>5</b>	Restrict open carry law.		
<b>6</b>		Kirkland Police Department should handle protection orders for extreme risk.	
<b>7</b>		More effective collaboration between law enforcement and school staff for troubled students.	
<b>8</b>		Training program in the community for firearm owners.	
<b>9</b>		Training program in the community for firearm owners and non-owners.	
<b>10</b>		Support Eddy Eagle educational program in schools.	
<b>11</b>		Support greater mental health awareness and access.	
<b>12</b>	Unify laws between states.		

*Continued on next page*

<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>State Legislative Agenda</b>	<b>City Ordinances, Policies and/or Budget</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>13</b>		Improve enforcement of existing laws.	
<b>14</b>		Training programs for safe storage.	
<b>15</b>	No additional gun regulations.	Improve enforcement of existing laws.	
<b>16</b>	Legislature should be doing more for gun regulations.		
<b>17</b>		Improve enforcement of existing laws. No additional tax on firearms or ammunition. Support Eddy Eagle.	
<b>18</b>	Mandatory training and demonstration of on-going proficiency.		
<b>19</b>	Prosecutors should be given the resources to try their cases instead of seeking plea bargains. Judges should sentence towards the upper limits of sentencing guidelines.		
<b>20</b>	Don't create new regulations.	Improve enforcement of existing laws.	
<b>21</b>	Don't create new regulations.		
<b>22</b>	Don't create new regulations.		Focus on the things we can change.
<b>23</b>			Read I-1639 before voting for it.
<b>24</b>		Increase education on guns and what they're capable of.	
<b>25</b>	Gun laws positively influence suicide rates.		
<b>26</b>	Look to states that have strict gun laws.		

## **Public Comment**

Staff collected public comment through interview (in-person or phone), email, text, or postal mail. Staff also utilized interviews to collect background information on the topic in order to more effectively plan the Town Hall, conduct the focus groups, and craft the communication plan. A **Schedule of Interviews** has been included on A-page 26 in Attachment A. All feedback from the interviews has been integrated into the **List of Ideas from the Community** on A-page 8 in Attachment A.

In accordance with other City processes for submitted written comment and due to the varied nature of format and content, staff have supplied written comment collected via email or other methods as is starting on A-page 27 in Attachment A.

## **KirklandTalks**

Council received a briefing at the March 20, 2018, City Council meeting on the new KirklandTalks dialogue model, which was delivered by the City's contractor who developed the model, Debbie Lacy, Director of the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition. Although not a method of providing public input to the City Council, staff considered KirklandTalks as a strategically effective technique for building community around the topics of gun safety and community safety. Debbie Lacy also submitted written comment as a part of Petition G-18-233, asking the City Council to consider using KirklandTalks in this way. Staff contracted further with the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition to develop a set of questions for a series of KirklandTalks events on the topics of gun safety and community safety.

Staff scheduled three such community dialogue events: July 7, July 9, and July 19. The purpose of these KirklandTalks events is to provide members of the community an opportunity to share their perspectives and stories related to firearms in a safe, structured way. The intention is that these events may increase empathy and understanding across differences in opinion that exist in the community.

This will be the first KirklandTalks series hosted by the City on any topic. All community members, including City Council and staff, have been encouraged to participate.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The 12 "top idea" options may be organized into three potential action categories:

1. Gun Safety and Community Safety ballot measure elements;
2. Local ordinances;
3. State legislative agenda

Staff recommends that Council provide direction to develop and report back with action items associated with the implementation of any of the "top idea" options in each of these three categories as outlined below. Options may require funding, impact analysis, relevant timelines and other policy considerations prior to Council action.

To facilitate the Council's evaluation of action steps, staff have listed the 12 "top idea" options identified in the previous **Focus Groups: Results** section in the table below, organized by type of Council action: Ballot Initiative, Local Ordinances, and State Legislative Agenda. Staff

identified five of the “top idea” options for inclusion in the potential Ballot Initiative due to the necessity of additional funding. A more detailed discussion of a potential Gun Safety and Community Safety ballot measure is also part of the July 17 City Council meeting, including a separate memo and a draft resolution identifying ballot measure elements and proposing a ballot title.

The options listed below are provided as the titles from the **Focus Groups: Results** section, with the corresponding number as listed in the results section indicated in brackets.

**Table 3: Council Options by Action Type**

<b><i>Ballot Initiative (Elements reviewed on July 17, finalized on August 6)</i></b>
<b>School Resource Officer Program [1]</b> <b>Mental Health Awareness Campaign in Schools [5]</b> Fund four new School Resource Officers (SROs) in the International Community School, and Finn Hill, Kamiakin and Kirkland Middle Schools. Fund a mental health awareness curriculum directly in the schools based on research and best practices.
<b>Firearm Safety Awareness Campaign [2]</b> Fund a program to inform people about responsibilities, liabilities, and laws around firearm ownership, safe storage, and firearm locks.
<b>Mental Health Awareness Campaign [4]</b> Fund community-wide mental health awareness campaign (in conjunction with the school district). The campaign could feature mental health professionals, knowledgeable in best practices and coordinated across agencies and municipalities, implementing strategies to demystify issues around mental health while providing guidance on warning signs for suicide prevention and firearm violence. Fund effective mental health and human services programs that provide suicide prevention, domestic violence prevention, and drug addiction.
<b>Firearm Ownership Training Program [3]</b> Fund gun safety training in the community, as well as safe storage of existing guns, such as subsidized trigger locks and gun safes. Expand voluntary gun buyback and pay gun owners to turn over assault weapons.
<b><i>Local Ordinances (Proposed for consideration and action in September/October)</i></b>
<b>Ordinances Requiring Firearm Locks and Responsible Storage [9]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require the City to destroy guns not needed as evidence (current KPD policy).</li> <li>• Require reporting (within 24 hours) of lost or stolen firearms.</li> <li>• Require safe storage of firearms</li> <li>• Create civil penalties and legal responsibility for not reporting lost or stolen firearms.</li> </ul> <p>Note: State legislation could pre-empt some of these elements.</p>
<b><i>State Legislative Agenda (Initial review September 4, final adoption October 16)</i></b>
<b>Enforcement Program [6]</b> Reform ambiguous gun laws and develop well-funded and efficient education and enforcement programs. Laws must be clear, consistent, have due process, consequences and allow no deviation to the law.
<b>Ban on Assault Rifles and Semi-Automatic Firearms [7]</b>

<p><b>Required Background Checks [8]</b>          Require comprehensive background checks. Maintaining records and take firearms away if someone has violated the ownership requirements.</p>
<p><b>Firearm Licensing Program [10]</b>          Fund a required licensing program for all fire arms and require recertification every 1-2 years with a test at the end.</p>
<p><b>Open Carry Law [11]</b>          Create a City-wide ban (or extended to certain targeted locations) on the open carry of firearms.</p>
<p><b>Safe Storage Permit Program [12]</b>          Require gun owners to obtain a safe storage permit with onsite inspections before obtaining possession of any firearm.</p>

Staff will be reviewing these “top idea” elements in each category at the July 17 Council meeting and seeking direction from the Council on which to bring back for review and potential adoption by the Council.

**EMC RESEARCH SURVEY RESULTS**

Following the presentation on the outreach report, staff and representatives from EMC Research will provide the Council with the results of the public safety sales tax measure survey.

Attachment A

**GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTREACH FINDINGS REPORT**

**Supporting Materials**

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RESOLUTION R-5240

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND  
DECLARING KIRKLAND AS A SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING CITY  
FOR ALL PEOPLE.

1           WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, the Mayor, with the support of  
2 the City Council, reiterated the values of the City of Kirkland by  
3 proclaiming Kirkland as a safe, inclusive and welcoming city for all  
4 people, and requested that City staff assist the City Council in  
5 developing and implementing a program to communicate the City's  
6 values; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, the City Council further discussed actions that could  
9 be taken to implement these values of diversity and inclusion at the  
10 Council's February 3, 2017 retreat, and the Council wishes to establish  
11 the elements of the proclamation as City policy through a resolution;  
12 and  
13

14           WHEREAS, Kirkland's vision statement describes the City as  
15 being a welcoming place to live, work and play, a place that highly  
16 values diversity and is respectful, fair, and inclusive, and also committed  
17 to providing neighborhoods and businesses that meet the needs of a  
18 variety of incomes, ages and life styles, through community  
19 engagement that creates a sense of belonging through shared values;  
20 and  
21

22           WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is committed to protecting and  
23 serving everyone who resides in, works in, or visits Kirkland without  
24 discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age,  
25 income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual  
26 orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, Kirkland believes in the dignity, equality and  
29 constitutional and civil rights of all people, and will not tolerate hate,  
30 intolerance, discrimination, harassment or any behavior that creates  
31 fear, isolation or intimidation; and  
32

33           WHEREAS, Kirkland's vibrancy and sense of community is  
34 stronger for our diversity and shared values of acceptance and respect;  
35 and  
36

37           WHEREAS, the City Council supports these principles and strives  
38 to reflect them in their actions as elected officials in Kirkland; and

39 WHEREAS, Kirkland City employees also support these principles  
40 and strive to embody these ideals every day as they provide critical  
41 services in support of the public health, safety and welfare, such as,  
42 police, fire, parks, public works and much more in an inclusive and  
43 equitable manner to all residents, visitors and businesses in Kirkland.

44  
45 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
46 of Kirkland as follows:

47  
48 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed  
49 to review the City of Kirkland's policies and programs and to evaluate  
50 administrative and legislative actions for Council review and approval  
51 that keep Kirkland a just society that respects and welcomes all people,  
52

53 Section 2. The City Manager shall propose legislation that  
54 codifies current City department policies related to non-discrimination,  
55 immigration status and religious affiliation.

56  
57 Section 3. The City Manager shall invite the community to come  
58 together to discuss and support the shared values of diversity and  
59 inclusion and identify additional actions that can be taken by the City  
60 and the community to help keep Kirkland a safe, welcoming and  
61 inclusive city for all people.

62  
63 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
64 meeting this 21st day of February, 2017.

65  
66 Signed in authentication thereof this 21st day of February, 2017.

  
MAYOR

Attest:

  
City Clerk



## **Resolution to Save Lives through Gun Safety: A Proposal to the Kirkland City Council by Indivisible Kirkland & KirklandSafe**

On February 21, 2017, the Kirkland City Council passed a resolution to keep Kirkland a safe, inclusive and welcoming city. In the last year, the City has taken concrete actions to implement the mandate of that 2017 resolution. Prioritizing gun safety within the City of Kirkland is a logical next step toward fulfilling the promise of Kirkland as a safe, inclusive and welcoming city for the students, parents, residents, workers and visitors of the City of Kirkland.

We are proposing that the Kirkland City Council partner with the community to prioritize gun safety in our city and in our state. In support of this public safety imperative, we are putting forth a list of priorities for the City of Kirkland to consider, adopt and act upon at the city level and to advocate for and support at the state level. These priorities include:

- Promote Responsible Gun Ownership
- Reduce Mass Shootings
- Reduce Suicides
- Reduce Accidental Shootings
- Support Local Community Gun Safety Programs
- Promote Awareness & Education
- Promote Local Dialogue

We look forward to actively working with the City of Kirkland to create and pass a resolution that commits the City's time and resources to supporting and advocating for gun safety in our community.

RESOLUTION R-5312

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND  
SETTING FORTH THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE AND ACTION  
ON THE TOPIC OF GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY.

1           WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, the Mayor, with the support of  
2 the City Council, reiterated the values of the City of Kirkland by  
3 proclaiming Kirkland as a safe, inclusive and welcoming city for all  
4 people, and requested that City staff assist the City Council in  
5 developing and implementing a program to communicate the City's  
6 values; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council passed  
9 Resolution R-5240 formalizing the themes in the proclamation and  
10 directing the City Manager to identify through community discussions  
11 additional actions that can be taken by the City and the community to  
12 help keep Kirkland a safe, welcoming and inclusive city for all people;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council also enacted  
15 Ordinance O-4558 adding a new Chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal  
16 Code entitled "Sustaining a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming City"; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, on March 14, 2018, the City Council welcomed over  
19 70 parents from various Kirkland schools to City Hall to hear community  
20 concerns and discuss potential actions that could be taken to help keep  
21 students safe from gun violence; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, on March 21, 2018, the City of Kirkland and the Lake  
24 Washington School District co-hosted a community discussion about  
25 school safety and community safety at which members of the public  
26 requested further action by the City and School District on the topics of  
27 gun safety and community safety; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, the federal and state constitutions guarantee the  
30 right to keep and bear arms, and many Kirkland residents legally own  
31 firearms for reasons such as hunting, recreation and personal  
32 protection; and  
33

34           WHEREAS, input from all community members, including gun  
35 owners, is necessary to promote safe and responsible gun ownership in  
36 order to reduce mass shootings, homicides, suicides and accidental  
37 shootings; and  
38

39           WHEREAS, City staff are actively implementing a program of  
40 community engagement for the 2019-2020 biennial budget, and  
41 understanding the community's concerns and priorities on the topics of

42 gun safety and community safety will help inform the City's fiscal and  
43 programmatic priorities as part of the adoption of the 2019-2020  
44 biennial budget and City Work Program; and  
45

46 WHEREAS, Kirkland's vision statement describes the City as a  
47 welcoming place to live, work and play, a place that highly values  
48 diversity and is respectful, fair, and inclusive, and that is also committed  
49 to providing neighborhoods and businesses that meet the needs of a  
50 variety of incomes, ages and life styles, through community  
51 engagement that creates a sense of belonging through shared values.  
52

53 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
54 of Kirkland as follows:  
55

56 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed  
57 to seek the community's input on the topic of gun safety and community  
58 safety through a Town Hall and other public events, on-line surveys,  
59 interactive social media, and additional engagement strategies that  
60 invite a wide range of views.  
61

62 Section 2. The City Manager is further authorized and directed  
63 to research methods of promoting safe and responsible gun ownership  
64 at the state and local levels in order to reduce mass shootings,  
65 homicides, suicides and accidental shootings, including improved  
66 enforcement of existing firearm laws and regulations, and to collaborate  
67 with public and private partners and stakeholders in connection with  
68 possible state and local legislation around gun safety and community  
69 safety, including related mental health issues and initiatives.  
70

71 Section 3. The City Manager shall report the results of the  
72 community feedback, research and partnership discussions to the City  
73 Council, no later than July 17, 2018. The City Manager's report shall  
74 include options for potential changes to City ordinances and policies,  
75 City budget initiatives, and the City's state legislative agenda based on  
76 the results.  
77

78 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
79 meeting this 1st day of May, 2018.  
80

81 Signed in authentication thereof this 1st day of May, 2018.

  
Amy Walen, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

**Table A1 – Schedule of Communication Methods**

<b>ANNOUNCEMENT MEDIUM</b>	<b>DATE</b>
KAN Meeting	May 9
Press Release – Town Hall & Overview	May 18
Newsletter article	May 23
Newsletter article	May 30
Inclusion Network Meeting	May 31
Firestation Readerboards	Early June – June 21
Newsletter article	June 6
Facebook post	June 7
Twitter tweet	June 7
Facebook event	June 13
Twitter tweet	June 13
Nextdoor post	June 13
Newsletter article	June 13
Kirkland Reporter ad – print edition	June 15
Kirkland Reporter ad – digital banners	June 15 – 20
Facebook post	June 17
Twitter tweet	June 17
Facebook post	June 18
Twitter tweet	June 18
Nextdoor post	June 18
Facebook post	June 20
Twitter tweet	June 20
Town Hall Event	June 20
Facebook post	June 21
Twitter tweet	June 21
Press Release – KirklandTalks events	June 29
Press Release – Town Hall outcomes	June 29
Newsletter article - KirklandTalks	June 29
Newsletter article – Town Hall outcomes	June 29
Facebook post	June 29
Twitter tweet	June 29
Nextdoor post	June 29
Facebook events (KirklandTalks)	July 2
Nextdoor events	July 2
Facebook post	July 6
Twitter tweet	July 6
Facebook post	July 8

## List of Ideas from the Community

The following list of ideas comprise all ideas collected during the focus groups and interviews. In most cases, the following statements are verbatim as recorded. Some minor edits were done for clarification and to reduce duplication. Staff have categorized the ideas into thematic areas for ease of review. When there were multiple identical responses, the number of times the response was mentioned is indicated in parenthesis. For example: (2+ times).

### State and local legislation and policy on gun safety

#### Accessibility

- Strict and more in-depth background check (19 times)
- Strict age requirements to obtain gun (12 times)
- Longer Waiting periods (7 times)
- Obtaining a license for a gun should be like being a nurse, a teacher, or a driver's license - renewals, training, etc. (5 times)
- Gun safety training requirement (like some states) – tests (5 times)
- Extensive mental health background checks (4 times)
- Treat guns like car licensing, registry, training renewal, testing, background check, liability for (4 times)
- Limit number of guns one person can have (2 times)
- Liability insurance required (2 times)
- Combine potential gun owners with mental health services (2 times)
- No guns for anyone involved in hate crimes (2 times)
- Require mental health hospital checks, like in Japan & family interviews (2 times)
- Limit the types of guns people can have (based on background checks)
- Follow up on people who are not allowed firearms but attempt to purchase
- Make it harder to get a gun i.e. longer wait periods, price, quantity
- More gun regulation at purchase, i.e. background checks also on family will support better enforcement
- Create hoops you jump through to drive a car - many hours and tests (why not to own a gun) -ownership and registration - could deter those who do crimes to themselves and others
- Reduce wait times (less restrictions and regulations)
- Stress the need to monitor who buys gun, requirements need to be stricter
- Gun safety training requirement (like some states)
- Ban persons with multiple DUI's from owning guns
- Ban domestic abusers from owning guns (no new purchase, remove from home)
- Consult pediatrician office information
- Monitor background checks
- Reduce number of guns in the community

- Allow smart guns to be sold
- Close gun show loopholes
- Follow up on red flag database; those who should not be firearm owners

### **Bans**

- Ban assault grade weapons (13 times)
- Bans of automatic & semi-automatic weapons (8 times)
- Forbid carrying guns in cars and open carry (4 times)
- Ban all guns (3 times)
- Bans on explosives (3 times)
- Ban bump-stocks (3 times)
- Bans of bump-stocks (2 times)
- Ban on chemicals (2 times)
- Consequences if used improperly (2 times)
- Allow Concealed Handgun Laws in school zones & other Gun Free Zones (for example allowing teachers or other concealed carry license-holders to be armed)
- No ownership for diagnosed/mentally ill, domestic violence, unstable, violent behavior (2 times)
- Do not limit magazine size
- Do not criminalize gun ownership
- Identify gun free school zones - day cares, preschools, etc.
- No open carry in the City
- Ban silencers/suppressors
- Handguns are used in 90% or more of the homicides in WA State - focus on them

### **Ongoing Ownership**

- Require gun owners to report lost and stolen guns (8 times)
- Require owners to have gun safes (6 times)
- Require locks w/guns (6 times)
- Remove guns from diagnosed/mentally ill, domestic violence, unstable, violent behavior (2 times)
- Ability to confiscate weapons if person unstable, mentally, etc.
- Require gun owners to regularly show proof that they still own their gun
- Every firearm holder come in and register the gun
- Frequent background checks on gun owners & survey gun owners on their home life
- New York State has a data base showing where every firearm is in the City limits (who owns it, who it is registered to) - can figure out who did the crime this way
- Proof of possession and ability to handle safety
- Require firearms to be lock up when not in use
- Pass gun storage laws

- Document all gun transfers of ownership (every transaction) with education and regulated
- Understand the history of how a criminal got the gun (what was the last legal transfer - or non-legal transfer and this person is responsible)
- Understand the history of how a criminal got the gun (what was the last legal transfer - or non-legal transfer and this person is responsible)
- Remove guns from high risk homes - coordinate with police and social workers
- Track ammunition sales

### **Penalties and Incentives**

- Criminal liability for damage or injury from unsafe storage (lost or stolen guns) (5 times)
- Incentives, tax exemptions, for safes, locks, etc. (2 times)
- Parent should be held legally liable for what happens when a child, child's friend, or someone else does with your gun (2 times)
- Responsibility of report lost or stolen guns – fines (to protect yourself from liability issues) (2 times)
- Enforcement of existing laws and felony for lying when applying for gun
- Do not tax ammunition
- Do not tax transfer of firearms
- Not implementing taxes which make ownership and practice onerous
- Increase taxes could hurt businesses
- Incentive for training
- Penalize gun discharge in entire City limits

### **General**

- Look at other counties and cities to gain insight on how to provide gun safety or ban guns (4 times)
- License, background checks, education, tests, safety, etc. (3 times)
- Stricter gun laws (on all guns) (2 times)
- City support I-1639 - lobby State (2 times)
- Take action based on understanding of gun violence as a public health issue (2 times)
- Do not support new laws or initiatives without fully understanding the laws
- Do not add extra layers to State/Federal laws
- Do not make common cause with anti-2nd amendment rights groups
- Do not pass nuisance/harassment laws that don't contribute to helping (virtue signaling, score points)
- Do not seek to overturn pre-emption
- Rules put on guns besides the basics
- Stricter ownership laws

- Check around where other Cities or States were able to reduce suicide, crimes, (around each of the themes). Who has had success and why, what are they doing, what does it look like?
- Undo the second amendment
- Reduce suicides
- Repeal reciprocity
- Video all mass gatherings
- Single entry to public places/facilities
- Sing in/door checks to all public facilities
- Better laws to support domestic violence victims before the crime

### **Improved enforcement of existing laws and regulations**

#### **Security in Schools**

- Don't militarize school - no arming teachers (3 times)
- Metal detectors in schools (3 times)
- More School Resource Officers (2 times)
- No more School Resource Officers (2 times)
- Better security in schools (2 times)
- Have school resource officers in each Middle and High School in Kirkland - like Redmond has done for years (2 times)
- Hotlines (2 times)
- Reduce police firearms, reduce the number of guns in the community (2 times)
- Defense to protect children in schools - metal detectors, school resource officers (2 times)
- More officials armed in schools
- Police school resource officer can change your perspective on how you interact with Police (not always bad interactions)
- Police school resource officers could make people feel less comfortable interacting with Police and other authorities
- Look at effectiveness of armed police school resource officers in schools versus mental health counselors (how effective are they and compare/contrast)
- Assist schools in increasing security
- More community Police in schools (not for discipline)
- Mental health support/services in schools (all ages)

#### **Policing**

- Enforce current laws on firearms (2 times)
- Letters from police reminding gun owners of their responsibilities (2 times)
- Enforcement of existing laws to include: prosecuting cases rather than plea bargains, sentencing - enhanced sentencing - sentencing toward the upper

end of guidelines - expecting criminals will serve the majority of their sentences if not all

- An anonymous tip line to report misuse of guns
- Emphasis on illegal guns by police
- City buy back of assault weapons
- Add social worker onto the police force
- Introducing due process into the ERPO exercise, penalties for misuse
- Enforcement current gun laws
- Homicides - criminal act of violence - random, intentional
- Workable, constitutionally sound restraining order mechanism
- Carry identification of at risk youth and adults
- Comprehensive assistance after identification of at risk youth
- Police are walking billboards for "guns make you safer" - reduce their armament's
- 75% of firearm homicides since annexation have been police shootings
- Offer "no question" setting to turn in guns
- Community policing

### **Education & training programs to support responsible gun ownership**

#### **Gun Owners**

- Gun safety courses for future and potential gun owners (like CPR classes, Driver's education, etc.) (7 times)
- Promote safe storage of firearms (subsidies for trigger locks) (6 times)
- Have a class on how to use a gun safely (2 times)
- Distribute free trigger locks (2 times)
- Training to protect accidental shootings
- Safe and responsible gun ownership controls - ability to secure firearms, training on recognize unsafe handling
- Training by NRA provided/certified trainers
- Police classes on firearms safety, Concealed Handgun laws
- Teach the law regarding purchase and possession
- Teach the law regarding self-defense
- Teach the law regarding 2nd amendment
- Include consequences if hurting or killing someone
- Tax-free firearms safety devices and subsidies
- Program to demonstrate proficiency and possession
- Treat guns like other toxic material - can't be stolen and forgotten about
- Keep guns away from the wrong people
- Literature at school and with counselors about gun safety

#### **Schools**

- Talk about it at schools (3 times)
- Gun safety, education, speakers in schools about dangers (2 times)

- Educate students on gun awareness and reporting processes (2 times)
- More trained sociologists (behavioral health professionals) in Schools
- Addressing "bullying" and empathy in schools
- Firearm training in schools
- Return to teaching firearms safety as PE in schools
- Active shooter training in schools
- School Shooting events, teams, education

### **General Awareness Campaign**

- Safety and awareness classes (kids, general public, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, etc.) (9 times)
- Accidental shooting – training (2 times)
- Eliminating media that glorifies violence and guns (2 times)
- More awareness of suicide (2 times)
- Promoting sportsman's activities, wildlife management and the positive aspects of gun ownership
- Civics lessons on what the 2nd amendment means
- City as a portal for information and direction to but not necessarily provider of services
- Firearm education
- Increase assistance to families in crisis
- Support victims of domestic violence to improve their situation
- Support studying the root cause of gun violence. Maybe related to homelessness, other issues.
- Education to recognize unsafe action
- Community firearms safety provided by police, fire, city hall, schools
- Limit media "contagion" promotion of mass shooter profiles
- Individual rights
- The law regarding WA State constitution and preemption
- Firearms practice training for citizens, particularly women, minorities or other at risk of attack
- Do not treat firearms owners as the problem
- Make gun dangers aware
- Make PSA videos regarding basic gun safety in the home (gun locks etc.)
- Provide statistics showing correlation of gun ownership to dangers of things like accidents, homicides, suicides, etc.
- Spread the negative facts about guns
- Misfire awareness FBI backflip
- Forums to talk freely about gun issues (Town Hall)
- More trained sociologists (behavioral health professionals) in the community
- Community Center Education program
- Develop system to recognize those seem threatening
- Treat the gun safety issue as a public health issue
- Literature at doctor's offices, pediatricians offices about gun safety

- Anger management and gun safety
- Conduct research about the cause of gun violence
- Educate people about the risk of being a victim of crime - how likely it is that someone will attempt to break into their home - comparison to other risks
- Increase awareness of behavior health issues and what they mean
- Facilitate groups of people talking to each other to better understand the issues
- System to recognize those who are violent, depressed, despondent - and reporting

## **Mental health support and initiatives**

### **Awareness**

- Mental health awareness/acceptance (3 times)
- Address Bullying
- Remove the stigma of mental illness
- Studies - mental illness, more people trained to identify potential suicide victims
- Create channels for mental health questions - police, teachers, fire, pastors, hospitals, first line contact (resourcing of mental health)
- Education around ability to identify people who need help (in schools and adults in the community).
- School/community conversations around mental health
- Understand gun violence around mental health issues

### **Services**

- Support mental health initiatives and resources (6 times)
- Spend money on mental health support and education for all schools (4 times)
- Suicide prevention programs (3 times)
- Support increase assistance to families that have mentally ill children (2 times)
- Mental health, suicide prevention and mass shooting
- Improved mental illness aid
- Support the ability to require treatment of either youth or adults who have diminished capability
- Mass shooting = mental illness - contain mentally ill people
- Improved mental health care access - state hospitals and trained counselors
- Promote access to mental health services
- Increase mental health options in schools/workplace
- More mental health professionals riding with police
- Mental health evaluations when asked by a doctor if a patient owns a gun
- Work with Evergreen Health on public mental health outreach (catch early)
- Psychiatric evaluations of High School students

## “WHAT DOES SAFETY MEAN TO YOU?” CARDS

83 total responses

- Happy communities
- Being safe in public spaces from gun violence in public spaces
- Being trained to have the responsibility of your actions. Know your limitations but be willing to stand up for yourself. Be aware of the environment you're in
- In this context: the freedom to protect myself, those I love, and others around me until professional help arrives
- Being empowered to make safety for my family my own responsibility
- The ability to protect myself and others until law enforcement arrives
- Safety is something best had with moderation. Too little and the world is a dangerous place. Too much and life starts losing meaning.
- No seeing guns in public (open carry) apart from police.
- Safety means my house is secure. Safety means my school is secure. Safety means the police come in a reasonable time. Safety means I can defend myself & family if any of the above fail.
- Safety means NO guns in school – including teachers
- Protecting all our citizens and residents from gun violence and accidental gun injuries and deaths.
- Teach: Eddie Eagle!
- I want to walk my community without being accosted and threatened.
- Awareness. Training. Being Prepared
- Safety is having a safe home to go to.
- Life is valued, laws are enforced, rights are valued
- Safety through superior firepower. Safety is a 12 gauge behind my door.
- More firearm purchase control
- My family is safe
- That we are safe – responsible gun owners are fine (but there need to be background checks, safety gun containers for storage & the ability for family or friends to notify of mental health concerns).
- NO automatic or semiautomatic assault weapons
- Safety means never having to wait for others when you have the means to keep yourself safe.
- Personal responsibility. Community awareness and cooperation. Well funded and supported police/courts. Accessible mental health care. Constitutional Right to self defense.
- Not having the father of my grandchild shot at Redmond High
- Enforcement of laws that protect people while protecting existing rights of all people
- Gun owners are responsible for the guns they own.
- Have confidence in schools & USA being safe – from unlicensed/unregulated firearms
- Freedom to express, learn, progress + grow
- More gun regulation. No assault weapons in public hands. No gun show loopholes for purchasing guns of any kind.

- General public...not carrying weapons into public facilities, schools, malls, theaters, grocery stores, sporting events...
- That we are safe + worry free but responsible
- Not being afraid, when I send my children to school, that they won't come back to me.
- Using wisdom to protect each other.
- Let's ask it from a different angle. How many guns would it need to achieve a feeling of safety? 100 millions? 200 mios? 300 mios? Do you feel safe already?
- Safe storage and prevent unauthorized access.
- Guns locked up!!
- Elimination of AR-15 Guns! Outlaw them!
- Ability to protect myself, family, friends. Support local police. Enforce Constitutional Law. Stop Sanctuary Citys + their politicians
- Being able to live, walk in the neighborhood & downtown w/out fear.
- Able to walk 24hrs on city streets
- Freedom from harm. Access to law enforcement assistance, if needed. Emergency preparedness.
- Safety means those who can kindly hold and support the container for those who can't, creating safety for as many as possible.
- Free of harm to myself and others
- Self awareness + personal responsibility
- Freedom from fear
- Safe storage of fire arms. Addressing how to keep guns out of the hands of kids (under 21), domestic abusers, those in crisis
- When you don't need to have to watch your back
- Being prepared to defend my family if needed.
- Families living without fear in their homes and in their communities.
- Not having my son-in-law (a teacher) get killed by gun violence at Redmond HS
- Not being afraid to drop my kids off at school
- Enforcing existing laws. Education increased
- Not having to fear any public space.
- Assault weapons need to be banned!
- Being able to walk anywhere without fear...both day & night.
- Fewer guns used for other than hunting
- Kids are safe at school we can walk around without fearing that someone might shoot us
- Being comfortable in any environment.
- Watch out for yourself and others. Warn others. Avoid unnecessary risks.
- Being able to protect my self and family.
- Being comfortable to be able to walk to, from, and around my school and neighborhood.
- Safety means feeling comfortable and not worried about the possibility of something happening that could harm your life. It also means that you don't have to worry about others. Safety is a non-stress environment.
- Not having to worry about my kids being safe in school
- Collaboration and communication between communities, law enforcement, and citizens to ensure health and well being for all. Observation of rights and accountability.

- Gun safety – good training. Screen mental health issues. Limit no concealed carry places. Enforce current laws.
- Safety means not having to worry that my son or one of his peers (high school) will commit suicide, which is often on an impulse because a gun is available.
- Freedom to go to the store and not be shot by a toddler who has access to a loaded gun. Where people of color and low-income people feel like the police are on their side, listening and protecting them
- No guns on school campuses. Absolutely no automatic rifle sales in the community or even legal to have in the community
- Being careful and to have good training to be a responsible gun owner.
- Safety is the feeling that you can do your daily affairs without fear of harm.
- For law breaking people to be prosecuted. No more gun laws!
- No assault guns ever. Children feeling totally safe when going to school
- Many things but not being shot at is near the top of my list.
- Having the training + tools to protect myself and my family
- Safety means not having to describe what safety means.
- Having the proper PPE
- Safety means I can attend church, a concert, a movie or any gathering without the fear of being shot.
- People should not have access to assault rifles.
- Safety means having the ability and freedom to utilize all means available to defend my life and my family including firearms, while maintaining secure responsible ownership
- Data shows that the more guns we own in the USA the more violence exists. Safety means legislator being BRAVE.
- With responsible precaution, I can expect my children to survive and thrive. You can't control everything, but let's eliminate the likelihood of preventable accidents & attacks.
- Having the ability to defend myself. Having support and ppe.
- Streets, playgrounds, and schools w/ kids + families unafraid of gun violence.

**Session Name:** Townhall Votatron - Gun Safety - 6.20.18

**Date Created:** 6/20/2018 4:51:21 PM

**Active Participants:** 215 of 215

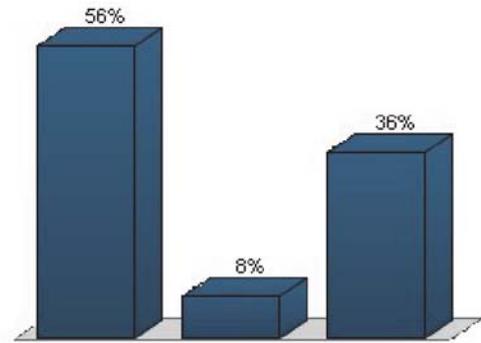
**Average Score:** 0.00%

**Questions:** 12

## Results by Question

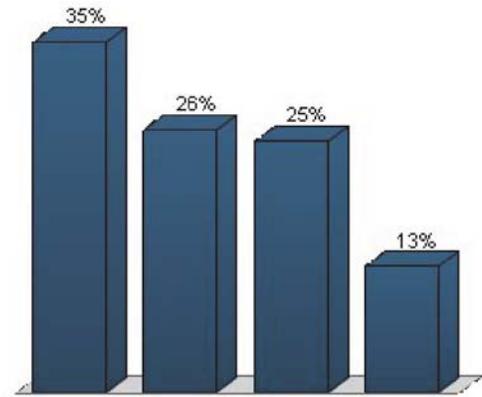
**1. The Seattle Mariners are the most exciting team in Major League Baseball so far in the 2018 season.**  
**(Demographic Assignment)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Agree	56.19%	109
Disagree	8.25%	16
Baseball...? No thanks.	35.57%	69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>194</b>



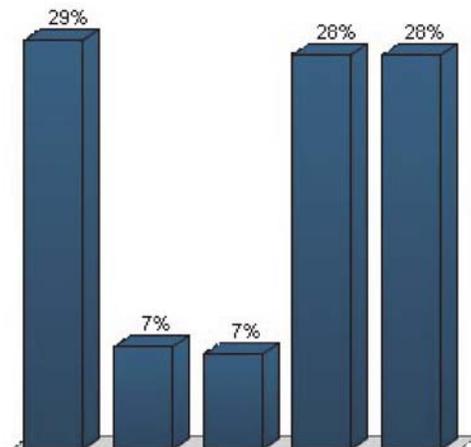
**2. In which part of Kirkland do you reside? (Demographic Assignment)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
North Kirkland (Finn Hill, Juanita, Kingsgate, Totem Lake)	35.45%	67
Central Kirkland (Market, Norkirk, Highlands, North Rose Hill)	26.46%	50
South Kirkland (Moss Bay, Everest, South Rose Hill, Lakeview, Central Houghton, Bridle Trails)	25.4%	48
I live outside of Kirkland	12.7%	24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>189</b>



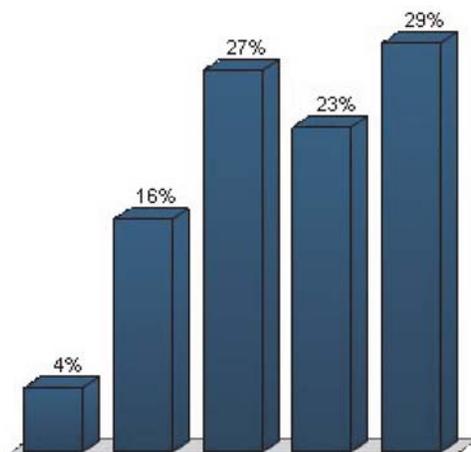
**3. How did you hear about tonight's event? (Demographic Assignment)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Word of mouth	29.32%	56
Kirkland Reporter	7.33%	14
The City of Kirkland's weekly email newsletter	6.81%	13
Social media (Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter)	28.27%	54
Other	28.27%	54
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>191</b>



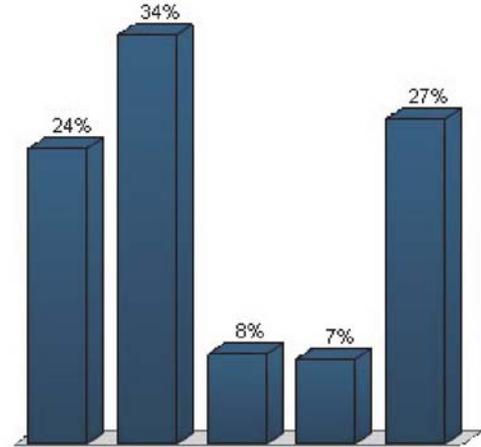
**4. Do you have children or grandchildren aged ... (Demographic Assignment)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Birth to 5	4.5%	9
6 to 17	16.5%	33
18+	27%	54
Some combination of the above	23%	46
I do not have children	29%	58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>200</b>



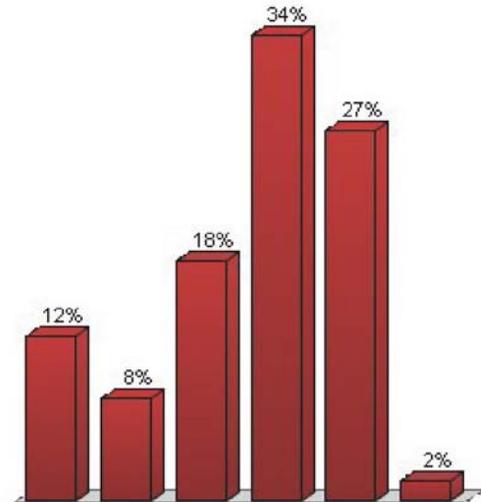
**5. What is your familiarity with firearms? (Demographic Assignment)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
I've never handled a firearm	24.5%	49
I've handled a firearm but have never owned any	34%	68
I've owned a firearm before but don't own one now	7.5%	15
I own a firearm	7%	14
I own more than one firearm	27%	54
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>200</b>



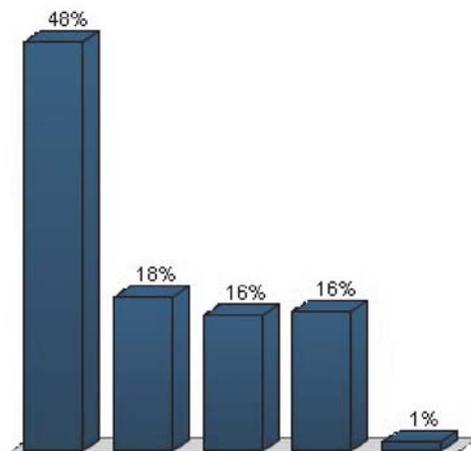
**6. The Kirkland City Council should increase police enforcement of gun laws by adding more community-based police officers. (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	12.06%	24
Disagree	7.54%	15
Neutral	17.59%	35
Agree	34.17%	68
Strongly Agree	27.14%	54
None of the Above	1.51%	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>199</b>



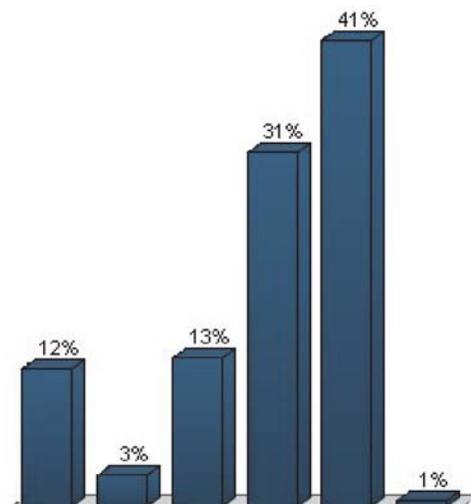
**7. How many times in the past year have you discussed a family member’s or acquaintance’s firearm storage practices to ensure a safe environment for you, your family members, or friends? (Demographic Assignment)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
None	48.35%	88
Once or twice	18.13%	33
Three or four times	15.93%	29
Regularly	16.48%	30
I don’t know	1.1%	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>182</b>



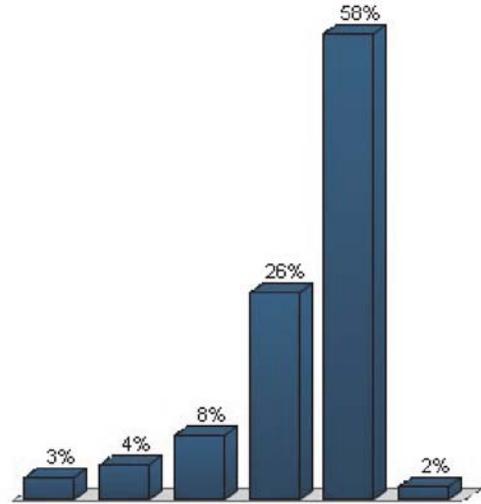
**8. The Kirkland City Council should fund community-wide firearm safety education, which features school programs, safe firearm storage and trigger locks. (Demographic Assignment)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	11.96%	22
Disagree	2.72%	5
Neutral	13.04%	24
Agree	30.98%	57
Strongly Agree	40.76%	75
None of the Above	0.54%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>184</b>



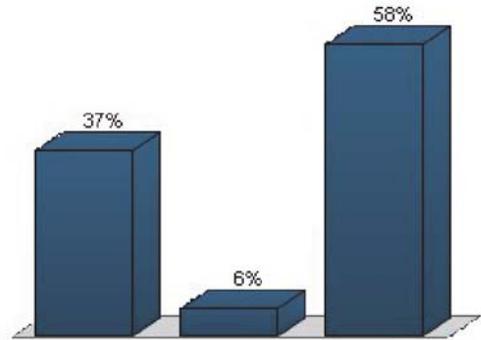
**9. The Kirkland City Council should fund mental health services and suicide prevention programs in the schools and in the community. (Demographic Assignment)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	2.67%	5
Disagree	4.28%	8
Neutral	8.02%	15
Agree	25.67%	48
Strongly Agree	57.75%	108
None of the Above	1.6%	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>187</b>



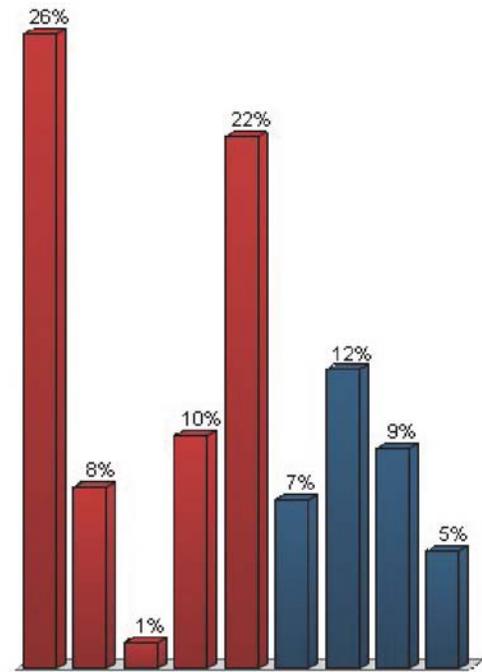
**10. What was the outcome of tonight's Mariners vs. Yankees game? (Multiple Choice)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Mariners won	36.67%	33
Yankees won	5.56%	5
Baseball...? No thanks.	57.78%	52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>90</b>



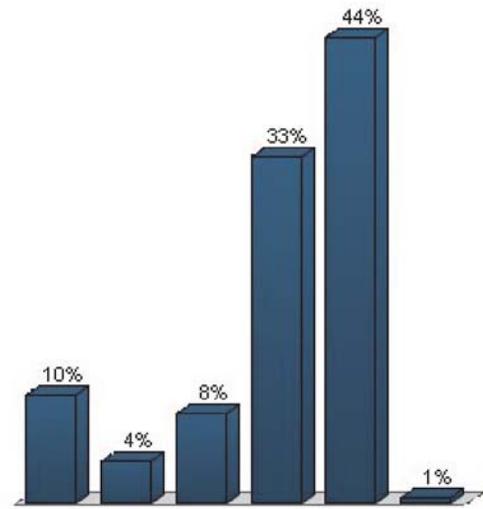
11. Which one of these local policies or legislation options do you support the most? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Enforce existing firearm laws better	26.34%	49
Ban firearm discharges in areas where unsafe	7.53%	14
Limit sale of firearms near schools	1.08%	2
Tax on firearm and ammunition sales	9.68%	18
More school resource officers/mental health counselors	22.04%	41
Firearm buybacks	6.99%	13
Require reporting of lost and stolen firearms	12.37%	23
Do not change current local policies or legislation	9.14%	17
I don't know	4.84%	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>186</b>



**12. The Lake Washington School District has committed 50% of the funding required for new school resources officers in Kirkland middle schools. The Kirkland City Council should fund the other 50% in order to provide school resource officers in the middle schools. (Demographic Assignment)**

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	10.17%	18
Disagree	3.95%	7
Neutral	8.47%	15
Agree	32.77%	58
Strongly Agree	44.07%	78
None of the Above	0.56%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>177</b>



**Table A2: Schedule of Interviews**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TYPE OF COMMUNITY MEMBER*</b>	<b>INITIATED BY STAFF?</b>
May 16	Neighborhood Leader	Yes
May 31	Community Members (2) affiliated with Indivisible Kirkland	No
Early June	Community Member affiliated with gun rights advocacy	Yes
Early June	Community Member affiliated with gun rights advocacy	Yes
June 8	Neighborhood Leader	Yes
June 12	Civic Leader	Yes
June 13	Neighborhood Leader	No
July 2	Community Member	No

\*Community Member Typology:

- *Neighborhood Leader:* a person in a formal leadership position within the Neighborhood Association structure, such as chairs, boards members and Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods representatives.
- *Community Members:* a person who self-identifies as being affiliated with a particular group or perspective but is not in a formal leadership position within that group.
- *Civic Leader:* a person who is a current or past City board or commission member.

## **Town Hall Feedback Form Responses**

June 20, 2018

Each person in attendance at the June 20, 2018, Town Hall received a feedback form with four prompts. Below is a list of all responses collected, organized by prompt. Each dot item is a response from a different person.

### **Question for the City Council:**

- Do you know the difference between 22 rifle and an AR? Educate, so familiar. Educate those who are fearful because they haven't owned or fired a firearm. Educate those who want to own a firearm. Educate children if they found a firearm. Firearms are not bad. People can be bad.

### **Ideas to Consider:**

- Police training for non-violent tools.  
Restrictions on gun ownership and ban assault rifles.
- Has anyone in Kirkland been charged under the new laws created by I-594?  
How would education and training be funded?  
Training for non-firearm owners/children.  
How would the City ensure that firearms safety instructors would not violate the temporary transfer section of I-594. This assumes firearms training would involve handling a firearm.  
Please do not push for laws that criminalize current firearms owners. Do not turn law abiding gun owners into criminals.
- The 2A will not go away.  
Laws can be broken – changing laws will not help.  
Government needs to get to the root cause of violence in the US. Please encourage state and fed representatives to get to the root cause free of political bias.

### **Suggestions for Future Town Halls:**

- This town hall was very well run, thank you.
- Have an open forum. NOT provide questions to get the answers you want.

# Saving Lives Through Gun Safety: A Community Approach

## **ADDENDUM, 7/3/18**

### Contents:

1. UPDATED Community Wish List: Specific Actions to Fulfill the Mandate of R-5312, pages 2-4
2. School Resource Officers: A Lesson in Unintended Consequences, pages 5-10
  - i. Executive Summary, page 5
  - ii. Full Report and Sources, pages 6-9
  - iii. Video Resources, page 10
3. UPDATED Overview of Pertinent Research: Our “Bookmarks,” pages 11-16
  - i. Updated links are indicated in bold font

# Wish List: Saving Lives Through Gun Safety

## Lobby WA State on Gun-Related Legislation

### Promote Responsible Gun Ownership

- Enhanced background checks which include verification by local law enforcement <sup>i</sup>
- Safety training <sup>i</sup>
- Informed Consent via an advisory by dealer of the risk of injury and harm <sup>i</sup>
- Age restrictions (with possible exceptions via safety training certifications or other demonstration of maturity) <sup>i</sup>
- Create a waiting period of ten (10) days <sup>i</sup>
- Liability insurance
- Safe storage, which includes criminal liability if an owner's gun falls into the hands of a child or other prohibited individual or if the owner's firearm is used in the commission of a crime (dangerous access prevention) <sup>i</sup>
- Reporting of loss/theft
- Require law enforcement to enter firearm into NCIC upon report of theft
- Safe transportation
- Criminal liability for gun owners who knowingly or recklessly provide firearms to prohibited individuals
- Written statement about why you are seeking to purchase a firearm
- Limit number of guns purchased at one time or in one month
- Revoke concealed carry reciprocity with other states

### Reduce Mass Shootings & Homicides

- Ban assault weapons
- Ban high capacity magazines
- Ban suppressors/silencers

### Reduce Suicides

- Temporarily restrict access to firearms for people who have been held for 72-hours for mental health treatment
- Encourage safe storage of firearms by creating legal liability for improper storage (dangerous access prevention) <sup>i</sup>

## Reduce Accidental Shootings

- Encourage safe storage of firearms by creating legal liability for improper storage (dangerous access prevention) <sup>i</sup>

## Promote Responsible Disposal of Firearms

- Allow WA State Patrol to destroy confiscated firearms

## Support Local Communities

- Grant cities the authority to legislate firearms in parks and city facilities
- Prohibit firearms on daycare & preschool grounds
- Support funding for local school district safety measures
- Support funding for county and statewide education/awareness programs
- Develop, implement and monitor statewide standards related to the role, selection, training and performance measures for SROs

## Oppose

- Legislation that arms teachers (e.g. I-1621)
- Concealed carry reciprocity at the federal and state level
- Expiration dates on gun-related legislation

# Pass Local Ordinances & Resolutions

## Ordinances

- Require owners to report lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours
- Require Kirkland PD to destroy confiscated firearms
- Require safe storage of firearms, which entails criminal liability if an owner's gun falls into the hands of a child or other prohibited individual or if the owner's firearm is used in the commission of a crime (Seattle is currently attempting this)
- Designate Kirkland as a "no shooting zone"
- Create a set of gun safety laws that are already Council-approved that go into effect if/when preemption is repealed at the state level
- Require specialized training for school resource officers

## Resolutions

- Support resolutions by the Lake Washington School District and PTSA regarding gun violence and safety in schools

- Work with LWSD to determine the impact and effectiveness of school resource officers on preventing gun violence in school
- Work with the LWSD to delineate guidelines for purpose, duties, qualifications and requirements for school resource officers, using a data-driven approach that emphasizes best practice
- Work with LWSD to determine a rigorous selection process to vet candidates for school resource officers to ensure SROs are suited to the delineated guidelines referenced above
- Work with LWSCD to develop an SRO Code of Conduct with disciplinary standards for SROs who act inappropriately or beyond the scope of SRO role
- Support the Department of Labor & Industries in their statewide rule making processing regarding lead contamination at firearm range

## Support Community Programs

### Promote Awareness & Education

- Current gun laws and rights
- Suicide prevention programs
- How to report individuals who may cause harm to themselves or others
- Current domestic violence laws and support programs
- Active shooter response training (ALICE)
- Stop the Bleed training
- Safe Storage event with Evergreen Hospital
- Mental health curriculum starting in elementary school
- School programs on “toxic masculinity” - all levels of education, including college

### Promote Local Dialogue

- Town Halls
- Leverage KirklandTalks for community discourse

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<sup>i</sup> Part of initiative I-1639 by the Alliance for Gun Responsibility

## School Resource Officers: A Lesson in Unintended Consequences

### Executive Summary

#### Unintended Consequences of School Policing:

Parents, educators, and community leaders all agree schools should be safe havens for students. In an effort to provide an easy and direct solution to the problem of school safety, there is often a call for more school resource officers (SROs), who are fully trained and fully armed police officers assigned schools. While this may initially sound like a reasonable idea, the truth is that it is not at all clear that SROs are effective in preventing school shootings. Instead, evidence points to the idea that school policing carries its own kind of consequences and its own kind of violence. Here are some of the concerns surrounding school policing:

- There is little data collected about the effectiveness of SROs; the data that does exist does not clearly demonstrate that SROs are effective in preventing school shootings.
- SROs are not required by federal or Washington state law to have any additional specialized training to help address the specific issues related to school policing.
- Most school districts and cities that utilize SROs do not explicitly define the role and authority of the SROs.
- When SROs are present in schools, they often address disciplinary issues, rather than administrators handling such issues.
- When police handle discipline, vulnerable students, such as students of color, LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities, are statistically far more likely to be arrested, suspended, and expelled. They are also far more likely to experience violence at the hand of the school resource officers.
- Students who are arrested, expelled and suspended are less likely to be successful in achieving their education and often find themselves stuck in a cycle of interaction with the police, creating the “school-to-prison pipeline.”
- The use of police in matters of discipline negatively impacts school climate and creates tension between the police and the community.

#### Best Practices and Guidelines for the Use of SROs:

Before school districts and cities employ school resource officers, they should examine best practices and guidelines provided by civil rights advocacy groups. Some of those guidelines, as explained by *Teaching Tolerance*, include:

- Clearly delineating that school administrators handle discipline, *not* SROs.
- SROs should receive comprehensive training, including de-escalation strategies, adolescent development, and conflict resolution.
- The role and authority of the SRO should be clearly defined.
- The school district or city should put policies in place that require transparency and accountability.
- The school district or city should examine model districts, such as San Francisco Unified and Denver Public Schools.

## School Resource Officers: A Lesson in Unintended Consequences

***“As I walked down the hall, one of the police officers employed in the school noticed I did not have my identification badge with me. Before I could explain why I did not have my badge, I was escorted to the office and suspended for an entire week. ... Walking to the bus stop, a different police officer pulled me over and demanded to know why I was not in school. As I tried to explain, I was thrown into the back of the police car” - a student from Detroit, Michigan (5).***

As cities grapple with the question of how to keep students and schools safe, educators and parents often look to school resource officers (SROs) as a possible solution. An SRO is a fully trained, and generally armed, police officer who is assigned to a school, or perhaps assigned to several schools, within a particular district. SROs are not required, either federally or by Washington state law, to take any special training in order to serve in a school setting. School resource officers became more common after the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, but that’s not actually their full origin.

The 1990s culture of fear and anxiety over a perceived increase in crime, particularly among youth, led to school resource officers as an answer to “juvenile supercriminals” (7). As of 2013, thirty percent of schools had an SRO, versus the one percent in 1975 (6). There’s no question that everyone wants to keep students safe. But the simple truth is that it is not clear that SROs actually achieve that goal. School policing is a costly strategy that leads to student arrests for minor disciplinary infractions (4). There is little data collection, oversight, or full understanding of the role SROs play in school climate and school safety (4). But here’s what we do know: “Having police in schools makes it more likely that students will be arrested” (4).

There is little data about how effective SROs are in preventing violence in schools. A 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service concluded, “The body of research on the effectiveness of [school resource officer] programs is limited, both in terms of the number of studies published and the methodological rigor of the studies conducted,’ that report said. ‘The research that is available draws conflicting conclusions about whether [school resource officer] programs are effective at reducing school violence’” (1). Specifically in the context of mass shootings in schools, it’s hard to imagine that a single SRO, who may be splitting time among various schools, will be the least bit effective in stopping an attack. In fact, the school resource officer at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida remained outside the building while the gunman waged war inside the building (6).

Beyond the efficacy of the SRO strategy, concerns exist around the lack of specialized training for school resource officers, as well as the lack of clarity that exists around their specific roles and expected outcomes. Nationally, there are no specific training requirements for school resource officers, yet they are expected to be mentors, teachers, counselors, as well as police

officers (6). Without specialized training, police are being asked to serve in ways they can't possibly be prepared for, which sets them up for failure. The Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers acknowledges that lack of specialized training leads to situations where police force is used unnecessarily (3). Additionally, school districts and cities do not clarify the purpose and boundaries of authority for their SROs. "...an officer should not be placed in a school without some sort of written agreement outlining what his or her role is there, particularly when it comes to discipline, civil rights advocates say" (7). This lack of clarity leads to confusion, puts students at risk, and creates ample opportunity for public criticism of the police (7).

Another simple truth about school policing is that the students who are most vulnerable - students of color, students with special needs, LGBTQ students - are far more likely to experience the unintended consequences of school policing than other students (7). For example, in 2012 a student with special needs was arrested by an SRO at a high school in Texas. This student was "booked in jail and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after an incident that started with a teacher asking the student to stop talking" (7). It's hard to fathom how refusing to sit quietly is an offense that warrants jail time for a student. Texas Appleseed, an advocacy group, found that 3,500 students were arrested in 11 Texas school districts from 2006 to 2007 (7). Of those 3,500 arrests, "only 20 percent involved violence or a weapon," with the most frequent "weapon" being a fist (7). In 2014, the Departments of Education and Justice released a letter to school administrators cautioning them on the role that racial discrimination plays in school discipline (8). When police are involved in the disciplinary process, students face far greater risk for harm, both in the moment, as well as lasting harm to their educational success. Though placed in schools to keep students safe, "In practice, some say, [SROs] are worsening the situation, facilitating the 'school-to-prison pipeline' rather than curbing it. Thanks to inconsistent training models and a lack of clear standards, critics contend school officers are introducing children to the criminal justice system unnecessarily by doling out harsh punishments for classroom misbehavior" (7).

A 2011 report from the Justice Policy Institute makes it clear that when SROs are present, students are more likely to be arrested than have their disciplinary issues handled by school administrators (2). As school resource officers are utilized more frequently, a rise in "zero-tolerance policies" that demand harsher penalties for minor infractions, has contributed to community concern for student safety and well-being. "International Association of Chiefs of Police President Richard Beary...said that officers hands are often tied by laws and policies that require mandatory action" (7). Contact with the juvenile justice system is harmful to youth and to their long-term success as members of society: "Unnecessarily arresting students is counterproductive to the education of our nation's youth. High school students who come in contact with the courts are more likely to drop out" (2). The vast majority, 67% to 75%, of youth who spend time in a juvenile detention facility withdrew from school or dropped out entirely within a year of returning to school (2). The harsh consequences students face when police handle discipline are doubly crippling when it's clear that those consequences impact the ability of the students to get an education.

As one might imagine, when policing becomes a disciplinary strategy, school climate can suffer dramatically (5). Though one might hope and expect that the close relationship between student and school resource officer could improve police-community relations, instead the opposite often occurs. “Experts and advocates who study school climate and the school-to-prison pipeline are raising serious equity and safety questions about school-based policing programs that put officers in the role of disciplinarian rather than protector” (5). This has a negative impact on school climate, creating a strained relationship between students and police (5).

Before school districts and cities employ school resource officers, they should examine best practices and guidelines provided by civil rights advocacy groups. Some of those guidelines, as explained by *Teaching Tolerance*, include:

- Clearly delineating that school administrators handle discipline, *not* SROs.
- SROs should receive comprehensive training, including de-escalation strategies, adolescent development, and conflict resolution.
- The role and authority of the SRO should be clearly defined.
- The school district or city should put policies in place that require transparency and accountability.
- The school district or city should examine model districts, such as San Francisco Unified and Denver Public Schools.

Local governments can also help set standards and demand specific and extensive training. In 2012, the city of Denver, for instance, passed a law which advises schools to “limit law enforcement involvement in cases of minor misbehavior and beefs-up training requirements for school officers. It requires data collection and analysis regarding reports of student misconduct and punishments received, broken down by race and gender. The next year, an agreement between Denver police and the city’s public school system reinforced a limited approach to student discipline” (7). When school resource officers are used, these guidelines and these model policies must be part of the process.

Students deserve to be safe at school. But it’s not clear that school policing achieves this outcome, and in fact, it is clear that school policing can make school *less* safe for some students. The student from Detroit, mentioned above, who was suspended for not having his ID, surely does not feel safer at school because of the police presence.

Before investing resources in additional SROs, at the local and/or state-level, research needs to be conducted to determine if this is a valid approach to student safety. If this strategy is pursued, a well-defined SRO program must be developed using a data-driven approach with a focus on best practices to increase probability of achieving desired outcomes and mitigating the unintended consequences which feed the “school to prison pipeline.”

## Sources

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2. Hughes, Zerline and Jason Fenster. "School Resource Officers are a Waste of Resources, Says New Report." *Justice Policy Institute*, 15 November 2011, <http://www.justicepolicy.org/news/3178>.
3. Keierleber, Mark. "Armed But Untrained: Why So Many School Cops are Unprepared for the Classroom." *The 74*, 1 November 2015, <https://www.the74million.org/article/armed-but-untrained-why-so-many-school-cops-are-unprepared-for-the-challenges-of-the-classroom/>.
4. Kim, Catherine and I. India Geronimo. "Policing in Schools: Developing a Governance Document for School Resource Officers in K-12 Schools." *American Civil Liberties Union*, August 2009, [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/whitepaper\\_policinginschools.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/whitepaper_policinginschools.pdf).
5. Lindbergh, Maya. "False Sense of Security." *Teaching Tolerance*, Summer 2015, <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/summer-2015/false-sense-of-security>.
6. Saul, Stephanie. "School Officer: A Job with Many Roles and One Big Responsibility." *The New York Times*, 4 March 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/04/us/school-resource-officers-shooting.html>.
7. Sneed, Tierney. "School Resource Officers: Safety Priority or Part of the Problem?" *U.S. News & World Report*, 3 February 2015, <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/01/30/are-school-resource-officers-part-of-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-problem>.
8. U.S. Departments of Education & Justice, "Joint 'Dear Colleague' Letter." *Civil Rights Division & Office for Civil Rights*, 8 January 2014, <https://www2.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201401-title-vi.html#>.

## Video Resources Highlighting Interactions of SROs and Students:

While these videos show the “worst case scenario,” these incidents should never be allowed to happen in schools. When policing and discipline intersect, students are terribly vulnerable. School resource officers lacking in specialized training and explicit expectations of their authority, are also vulnerable; they aren’t being given the tools necessary to do the job being asked of them.

1. SRO in Rolesville, NC body slams females student to the floor:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL03zfLqmKY>
2. Six year old student with autism handcuffed at school in Hardee County, FL:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIsi9at9u1g>
3. Two SROs in Syracuse school shown using excessive force to subdue 14-year old with autism; student’s elbow was fractured during the altercation:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbyT\\_CNKn7E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbyT_CNKn7E)
4. Officer at Spring Valley High School in South Carolina slams student to ground and arrests her for refusing to leave the classroom:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH\\_EJiEh3o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH_EJiEh3o)
5. Three middle school girls in Baltimore required hospital treatment for a head wound and treatment for pepper spray after an altercation with the SRO:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gG4wPT6U-hQ>

# Overview of Pertinent Research: Our “Bookmarks”

**\*\*New links are in bold (6/6/18)**

## Washington State Gun Laws:

- General Overview: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_laws\\_in\\_Washington](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_Washington)
- Scorecard from Giffords Law Center: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/>
- **How Strictly are Guns Regulated Where You Live:**  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/assault-weapons-laws/>
- **Washington State Legislature Fails to Let State Patrol Destroy Confiscated Guns:**  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/washington-legislature-fails-to-pass-bill-to-let-state-patrol-destroy-guns/>
- **A Look at Guns Sold by Police that End Up at Crime Scenes (Washington state):**  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2018-01-08/guns-sold-by-police-end-up-with-drug-dealers-in-gang-houses>

## General Gun-related Statistics & Policies:

- Summary of existing research around what policies work:  
<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html>
- Fact-sheet on state preemption laws:  
<https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws>
- General Information: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/>
- General Statistics: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/statistics/>
- General Research: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/research/>
- General Research & Statistics: <https://everytown.org/learn/>
- Firearm Mortality by State:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm\\_mortality/firearm.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm)
- King County Stats:  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/firearm-facts.aspx>
- Pacific Northwest Suicide Prevention Resource Center:  
<http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/suicide/stats/>
- 6 Ways to Reduce Gun Violence in America:  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/news/2018/03/28/448565/gun-violence-united-states-public-health-crisis/>
- **Seven Steps. 27,000 Lives:**  
<http://apps.bostonglobe.com/opinion/graphics/2018/03/seven-steps/>
- **Firearm Violence in King County:**  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-pr>

[evention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~ /media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/firearm-violence-king-county-2014.ashx](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/firearm-violence-king-county-2014.ashx)

## Responsible Gun Ownership:

- This is the Toughest Gun Law in America:  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/138-killed-in-record-active-shooting-incidents-2017\\_us\\_5aef8124e4b0c4f19323e987](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/138-killed-in-record-active-shooting-incidents-2017_us_5aef8124e4b0c4f19323e987)
- Safely Securing and Storing Guns Saves Lives:  
<http://durkan.seattle.gov/2018/03/safely-securing-and-storing-guns-saves-lives/>
- Tougher Laws Could Dramatically Reduce Suicide Rates:  
<https://arcdigital.media/tougher-gun-laws-could-dramatically-reduce-suicide-rates-d15ca5730564>
- The Truth About Suicide & Guns, The Brady Campaign:  
<http://www.bradiycampaign.org/sites/default/files/TruthAboutSuicideGuns.pdf>
- Stanford Law School - Another Mass Shooting: An Update on U.S. Gun Laws:  
<https://law.stanford.edu/2018/02/18/another-mass-shooting-qa-us-gun-laws/>
- Stricter Gun Laws Tied to Fewer Fatal Police Shootings:  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-guns-police/stricter-gun-laws-tied-to-fewer-fatal-police-shootings-idUSKBN18W1YO>
- Safe Storage:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/safe-storage/>
- Child Access Prevention:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/child-access-prevention/>
- Prevention Institute - Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths:  
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>
- Stop Posturing & Start Problem Solving:  
<http://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2018/01/pfor1-1801.htm>
- Child Firearm Safety Laws in 26 Selected Large U.S. Cities (including Seattle):  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~ /media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/child-firearm-safety-laws-26-cities.ashx>
- How to Buy a Gun in 15 Countries:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/02/world/international-gun-laws.html>
- Reporting Lost & Stolen Firearms:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/crime-guns/trafficking-straw-purchasing/>

- Reporting Lost & Stolen Firearms:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/gun-owner-responsibilities/reporting-lost-stolen-firearms/>
- Stolen Guns in America, a State-by-State Analysis:  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/reports/2017/07/25/436533/stolen-guns-america/>
- ATF Releases 2016 Summary of Firearms Reported Lost and Stolen:  
<https://www.atf.gov/news/pr/atf-releases-2016-summary-firearms-reported-lost-and-stolen-ffls>
- Kirkland Stats on Lost & Stolen Firearms: see attached handout from Alliance for Gun Responsibility (page 16 of this resource packet)
- Firearm Ownership, Storage Practices, and Suicide Risk Factors in Washington State, 2013-2016: <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304403>
- **Seattle Pursues Gun Laws Where it Can - Starting with Safe Storage:**  
<https://crosscut.com/2018/03/seattle-pursues-gun-laws-where-it-can-starting-safe-storage>
- **How Often do People Use Guns for Self-Defense?:**  
<https://www.npr.org/2018/04/13/602143823/how-often-do-people-use-guns-in-self-defense>
- **Gun Owners Support a Wide Range of Gun Control Measures, Study Finds:**  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/05/17/gun-owners-support-a-wide-range-of-gun-control-measures-johns-hopkins-study-finds/>
- **Gun Safes Work. But Most Owners Don't Use Them:**  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/06/04/gun-safes-work-but-most-gun-owners-dont-use-them/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.b7392ab5e7fc](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/06/04/gun-safes-work-but-most-gun-owners-dont-use-them/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.b7392ab5e7fc)

## Reducing Mass Shootings and Homicides:

- How to Reduce Mass Shooting Deaths? Experts Rank Gun Laws:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/upshot/how-to-reduce-mass-shooting-deaths-experts-say-these-gun-laws-could-help.html>
- It's Time to Bring Back the Assault Weapons Bans, Gun Violence Experts Say:  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/02/15/its-time-to-bring-back-the-assault-weapons-ban-gun-violence-experts-say/?utm\\_term=.07309ebadef4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/02/15/its-time-to-bring-back-the-assault-weapons-ban-gun-violence-experts-say/?utm_term=.07309ebadef4)
- Australian Gun Laws Stopped 16 Mass Shootings, New Calculations Show:  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/australian-gun-laws-stopped-16-mass-shootings-new-calculations-show-n855946>
- Stanford Law School - Another Mass Shooting: An Update on U.S. Gun Laws:  
<https://law.stanford.edu/2018/02/18/another-mass-shooting-qa-us-gun-laws/>
- 6 Real Ways We Can Reduce Gun Violence in America:  
<http://time.com/5209901/gun-violence-america-reduction/>

- Stricter Gun Laws Tied to Fewer Fatal Police Shootings:  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-guns-police/stricter-gun-laws-tied-to-fewer-fatal-police-shootings-idUSKBN18W1YQ>
- Prevention Institute - Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths:  
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>
- Child Firearm Safety Laws in 26 Selected Large U.S. Cities (including Seattle):  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~//media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/child-firearm-safety-laws-26-cities.ashx>
- New Seattle-King County Task Force Makes Gun Laws Work:  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/new-seattle-king-county-task-force-makes-gun-laws-work/>
- New unit will work to remove guns from potentially dangerous people in King County:  
<http://komonews.com/news/local/new-king-county-unit-will-work-to-take-guns-from-potentially-dangerous-people>
- Checking Facts and Falsehoods About Gun Violence and Mass Shootings After Parkland Shooting  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/16/us/politics/fact-check-parkland-gun-violence-mental-illness.html>
- Mass Shootings: Research and Lessons  
<http://www.psychiatristimes.com/disaster-psychiatry/mass-shootings-research-and-lessons>
- **Mass Shootings in Washington:**  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/mass-shootings-in-washington-state-2/>
- **More than 215,000 Students Have Experienced Gun Violence at School Since Columbine:**  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/school-shootings-database/>

## Reducing Suicides:

- Tougher Laws Could Dramatically Reduce Suicide Rates:  
<https://arcdigital.media/tougher-gun-laws-could-dramatically-reduce-suicide-rates-d15ca5730564>
- To Reduce Suicides, Look at Guns:  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/wonkblog/suicide-rates/?noredirect=on>
- Guns and Suicide: A Fatal Link:  
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/magazine/guns-and-suicide/>

- The Truth About Suicide & Guns, The Brady Campaign:  
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/sites/default/files/TruthAboutSuicideGuns.pdf>
- Mental Health & Gun Violence, Conflating the two hurts those who need help most:  
<https://healthcareinamerica.us/mental-health-and-gun-violence-607dbb564fb6>
- 6 Real Ways We Can Reduce Gun Violence in America:  
<http://time.com/5209901/gun-violence-america-reduction/>
- Safe Storage:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/safe-storage/>
- Child Access Prevention:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/child-access-prevention/>
- Prevention Institute - Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths:  
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>
- Child Firearm Safety Laws in 26 Selected Large U.S. Cities (including Seattle):  
[https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~/\\_media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/child-firearm-safety-laws-26-cities.ashx](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~/_media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/child-firearm-safety-laws-26-cities.ashx)
- The Impact of Firearms on King County's Children:  
[https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~/\\_media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/impact-firearms-children-report.ashx](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~/_media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/impact-firearms-children-report.ashx)
- Firearm Safety Research, Safe Storage:  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/firearm-safety-research.aspx>
- **Mayor Proposes Law Requiring Owners to Lock Up Guns:**  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/mayor-proposes-law-requiring-seattle-owners-to-lock-up-guns>

## Reducing Accidental Shootings:

- 6 Real Ways We Can Reduce Gun Violence in America:  
<http://time.com/5209901/gun-violence-america-reduction/>
- Safe Storage:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/safe-storage/>
- Child Access Prevention:  
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/child-access-prevention/>

- Prevention Institute - Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths:  
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>
- Child Firearm Safety Laws in 26 Selected Large U.S. Cities (including Seattle):  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/child-firearm-safety-laws-26-cities.ashx>
- The Impact of Firearms on King County's Children:  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/~media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/impact-firearms-children-report.ashx>
- Firearm Safety Research, Safe Storage:  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/firearm-safety-research.aspx>

## Information on Effective Community Programs & Initiatives:

- Mental Health & Gun Violence, Conflating the two hurts those who need help most:  
<https://healthcareinamerica.us/mental-health-and-gun-violence-607dbb564fb6>
- Prevention Institute - Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths:  
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>
- Firearm Safety Research, Safe Storage:  
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOK-IT-UP/firearm-safety-research.aspx>
- Safe Storage Event:  
<http://www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/gun-safety-federal-way-english.pdf> (Evergreen Hospital?)
- Healing Hurt People: Healing Hurt People (HHP) offers a hospital-based intervention to address the psychological and physical wounds of trauma.  
<http://drexel.edu/cnvsj/healing-hurt-people/overview/>
- **Washington State Legislature Fails to Let State Patrol Destroy Confiscated Guns:**  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/washington-legislature-fails-to-pass-bill-to-let-state-patrol-destroy-guns/>

## RESOLUTION:

### Advocating for School Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Measures

*Presented to LWPTSA Council general membership for adoption on May 3, 2018*

Whereas, the members of the Lake Washington PTSA Council joins students, families, school professionals, and community members across Washington State in the desire for policy changes that help end the growing problem of violence in schools; and

Whereas, the causes of violence in schools are complex and multifaceted, and so the policy changes to prevent further incidents must address multiple issues as well; and

Whereas, gun violence presents a clear and present danger to the students, parents, educators, paraeducators, administrators, and support staff of the Lake Washington School District; and

Whereas, in the past five years eight school shootings have occurred in Washington State, four of which resulted in injury or death<sup>1</sup>, and facilities in districts around Washington State have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence; and

Whereas, approximately 21% of King County adults (340,000 people) reported firearms present in or around their homes. Among these adults, approximately 15% (51,000 people) of firearm owners reported storing them loaded and unlocked<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas, between 2013 - 2015, 118 youth (age 17 or younger) died by suicide in Washington; 47 of these youth (40%) died from firearms<sup>3</sup>; and

Whereas, adolescents with access to firearms are 2.6 times as likely to die by suicide as adolescents without access to firearms<sup>4</sup>; and

Whereas, seventy-four percent of educators oppose arming teachers, according to a March 2018 poll by the National Education Association; and

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

Whereas, we believe that every child deserves to learn in an environment that is safe and have the opportunity to grow into a happy and healthy adult; and

Whereas, the National PTA has advocated for a variety of measures to address gun violence, including mental health education, early intervention, prevention and access to school and community-based mental health personnel and services, measures to educate students, educators and community members on firearm safety and violence prevention, as well as laws and regulations in the areas of gun safety and violence prevention.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Washington PTSA Council joins the National PTA<sup>4</sup> in its demands that Washington State and federal government adopt legislation to accomplish the following policy goals:

- Require universal background checks and a license to purchase a firearm.
- Re-enact a federal ban on the sale and possession of military-style assault weapons.
- Lift any ban on research that studies the causes and effects of gun violence; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Lake Washington PTSA Council also supports laws and regulations that would accomplish the following:

- Increase the federal minimum purchase age to 21 for all long-guns (rifles) to match current federal regulations for handguns.
- Support prevention, intervention and community re-entry programs that reduce community and gun violence.
- Require responsible storage of firearms and create criminal liability when a child uses an unsafely stored firearm.
- Increase funding for programs and school staffing that support student mental health, social and emotional learning, and anti-bullying.
- Establish safety programs in schools that do not include arming educators or staff.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Lake Washington PTSA Council also supports the efforts by the Lake Washington School District to increase safety measures to better protect the District's students, teachers and staff.

Liz Hedreen, LWPTSA Council President  
Melissa Stone, LWPTSA Council Legislative Chair  
Contact: [Advocacy@lwptsa.net](mailto:Advocacy@lwptsa.net)

Date: May 3, 2018

#### Footnotes

1. <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/#2919>
2. WA State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015
3. WA State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Death Certificate data, June 2017
4. Annals of Internal Medicine 2014, Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. The Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members. Annals of Internal Medicine. 160(2):101-110

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Gov. Bevin Responds to Alleged Hypocrisy - YouTube

**From:** John Cartmell [<mailto:promotinghealth@comcast.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2018 1:18 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Gov. Bevin Responds to Alleged Hypocrisy - YouTube

Dear Mayor Walen and Council Members.

While I attended the June 20th town hall meeting on Gun Safety and Community Safety, I had to leave early so I didn't have an opportunity to speak. However the video link below with Gov. Bevin of Kentucky expresses many of the same points I wanted to make.

Gov. Bevin is right when he says the mores of this nation have changed over the last 50 years. (Although he doesn't mention the traditional influence churches have on a civil society and the gradual decline of Christianity and church attendance in the United States over the years.)

Gun violence is a symptom of a much greater societal problem. I hope you'll all take a few minutes to view this video and consider Gov. Bevin's points and how they might be applied to meet the needs of community safety.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6XTVuUP0Ho>



Gov. Bevin responds to question concerning his stance on school violence.

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## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Gun Safety Town Hall

**From:** Yvonne Cote <[YCote@msn.com](mailto:YCote@msn.com)>

**Date:** June 21, 2018 at 3:02:31 PM PDT

**To:** "[awalen@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:awalen@kirklandwa.gov)" <[awalen@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:awalen@kirklandwa.gov)>

**Subject:** Gun Safety Town Hall

Amy –

Thank you very much for last nights discussion regarding Gun Safety and Community Safety.

I have a couple of things I would like to say. First of all, we were encouraged to express our point of view at this meeting. This is appreciated but I noted that many of the comments were anecdotes of times in persons lives that influenced their point of view on this subject. I would like to say that for some of us, reciting an anecdote in public is just too heart wrenching. I fit into that category. When my sister was sixteen she came home from school and interrupted a burglar in my parents house. He had stolen a gun from the neighbors and he shot and killed my sister. That is not a story I can easily repeat in a town hall. If anecdotes will help the city council make decisions on perhaps requiring someone to lock up their guns, not carry them around in public, or force them to keep them where children are not, then that is my story and I hope you remember it when those who have much easier ones to tell stand up and say theirs.

The second thing is I took offense to the deputy mayor's comment regarding a "silver bullet". We are talking about life and death here. Maybe next town hall you could have instant poll about who in the audience has been affected by gun violence and maybe the seriousness of the subject will continue to be apparent.

Don't skirt around it. These are peoples lives we are talking about.

Thanks,

Yvonne Cote  
425 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave South, Kirkland

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Firearms reading material

**From:** Shawn Collinge [<mailto:shawncollinge@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2018 6:52 PM

**To:** James Lopez

**Subject:** Re: Firearms reading material

Hey Jim,

I have one correction to make on the defensive gun use. The number for the highest estimate is actually 154-923 per 100k.

Thank you.

On Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 6:50 PM, Shawn Collinge <[shawncollinge@gmail.com](mailto:shawncollinge@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hey Jim,

Here is some interesting points in regards to gun control. The things we talked about in the focus group I believe are better solutions to the problem than gun control. These are the facts I urge you and the city counsel to consider. There's a lot of sources with articles that might be time consuming to read so I've tried to summarize but please try to read some of the articles they are very well written and show a lot of data.

The average person in the US during a given year will be neither especially aided or harmed by a gunshot. When examining the right to keep and bear arms, either side will be looking at the marginal benefits on the scale of single digits per 100k population on an annual basis. The most clear and commonly used statistic is intentional homicide rate compared to firearm ownership rate. Comparing these two, there is no correlation between cross-sectional firearm ownership rate and intentional homicide rate globally or regionally.

[Here is just something I picked out that illustrates the point clearly for US states.](#) Here's one that [also covers the regional and global breakdowns](#). Feel free to check the numbers, as they should be publicly available. [Here's one that covers OECD standard developed countries and global stats.](#) Here is [a before and after analysis regarding varrious bans.](#)

Australia is frequently cited as an example of successful gun control, but [no research has been able to show conclusively that the Austrailain NFA had any effect](#). In fact, the US saw a similar drop in homicide over similar time frames without enacting significant gun controls. Here's a [better writeup on that specific point than I do.](#)

Similarly, the UK saw no benefit from gun control enacted throughout the 20th century.

[The UK has historically had a lower homicide rate than even it's European neighbors since about the 14th Century.](#)

[Despite the UK's major gun control measures in 1968, 1988, and 1997 homicides generally increased from the 1960s up to the early 2000s.](#)

[It wasn't until a massive increase in the number of law enforcement officers in the UK that the homicide rates decreased.](#)

Note that I cite overall homicide rates, rather than firearm homicide rates. This is because I presume that you are looking for marginal benefits in outcome. Stabbed to death, beat to death, or shot to death is an equally bad outcome unless you ascribe some irrational extra moral weight to a shooting death. Reducing the firearm homicide rate is not a marginal gain if it is simply replaced by other means, which seems to be the case.

Proposed bans on "Assault Weapons" intended to ban semi-automatic variants of military rifles are even more absurd, as [rifles of all sorts are the least commonly used firearm for homicide and one of the least commonly used weapons in general](#), losing out to blunt instruments, personal weapons (hands and feet) and knives.

As for the more active value of the right, [the lowest credible estimates of Defensive gun use are in the range of 55-80k annual total](#), which is about 16.9-24.5 per 100k, but actual instances are more likely well over 100k annually, or 30.7 per 100k. [The highest estimate is 500,000-3,000,000 uses a year](#), which is about 80-480 per 100k.

Now to dive into the school shootings information you have to understand how the media counts school shootings to get the high numbers they have. [Here's a very good write up on the misleading numbers](#) along with [this one](#). I'm not trying to downplay how upsetting it is that kids are dying but at the same time this misleading information is what is causing people to think emotionally not logically.

Another argument people make is that other countries don't have this mass shooting problem it's only the us because of guns. [If we break it down per capita for mass shoots only not mass killings you can see the us isn't actually that more dangerous than other countries in the world in frequency and in death rate.](#)

Here's some interesting videos if you've made it this far.

[Colion Noir is a lawyer that is an unofficial spokesman for the NRA and explains a lot of how firearm owners feel.](#) This is a very good video and if you're going to watch just a few or one I suggest this one. He also has a lot of very interesting videos that explain our side pretty well.

[This is a video by a Canadian who has moved to america named Steven Crowder. His delivery isn't very professional but he does make some valid points in his video.](#) I don't agree with a lot of his other videos but this one is pretty informational.

I tried to cut it short and only include the main facts but if you are wanting me to add more let me know. Attached is also a 4473 form to purchase a firearm, you can see the information that is required. In Washington state it is required for all purchases of firearms.

Thank you.

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## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Stacy Duffy <slduffy2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 30, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** Response to Town Hall on Gun Safety

Hello,

I want to thank the City of Kirkland for hosting the a Town Hall about Gun Safety on Wednesday, June 20th.

I attended the Town Hall with members of my church who are concerned about gun safety. I was a first grade teacher before my two children were born and my son attends school in the LWSD. This is an issue I think about often and I hope that the City of Kirkland considers taking steps to make Kirkland a safer city. I know that little can be done at the city level due to state laws, but I want the City Council to know this is something Kirkland constituents think about frequently.

I think about gun violence each day when I drop my son off at school. I am sad for him when I has anxiety about "evacuation drills" and I don't have any answers to comfort him other than "your teachers are there to keep you safe and the drills are so that you have a plan in case of an emergency". Unfortunately, our church also conducts evacuation drills routinely.

For me and my family there is one bottom line: gun violence is an epidemic in America. Other countries have the same rates of mental illness as the US, but not nearly as many gun related fatalities:

What Explains U.S. Mass Shootings? International Comparisons Suggest an Answer <https://nyti.ms/2hODjP5>

I think the City Council should be especially mindful of the suicide rates by firearms. Please do not think death by suicides do not count, because the lives lost by suicide are just as relevant as violent deaths; especially when it comes to our young people.

I think gun buyback programs are a great place to start reducing the number of firearms in our community. I know families with firearms that were purchased years ago, before they had children, who no longer want or need the gun in their home. Unfortunately people in this situation tend to sell their firearms on Craigslist without any background checks. This is unacceptable. Research shows that if a gun is present in a home, gun violence or accidents are more likely to occur. Removing guns from the homes of people who don't want them could help reduce suicide, domestic violence and gun accidents in our city. (Please review the following statistics: <http://www.bradycampaign.org/risks-of-having-a-gun-in-the-home>)

I also think counseling services at the high school and middle school level are very important. The polling at the Town Hall asked participants if they would like the city to fund more "councilors/resource officers" at the high schools. I think this question was very confusing. Councilors and resource officers do not have the same job description. Our young people need counseling services to manage the high account of stress they are under at our local schools. Please help our young people avoid suicide.

I was disappointed by the Town Hall. I felt like only one side of the issue was represented. Most of the people who got up to speak (especially at the end) were in favor of keeping gun laws as they are. The speakers at the Town Hall do not represent the Kirklanders I know. The Kirkland residents I know agree that firearms should not be discharged in urban areas, that large firearms should not be openly carried around in public parks and areas with large amounts of people, that background checks are an important part of making sure people with a

history of violence do not have access to firearms, that gun owners should store their guns safely, and that gun owners should be required to take gun safety classes before buying a gun.

I also noticed that a large number of the speakers at the Town Hall were men. This was disappointing to me because I know the City of Kirkland respects the opinions of all people. My information card was never collected before the Town Hall began and I'm guessing I was not the only one. In the future I would ask the organizers to be mindful of including a variety of people.

I heard a lot of scary stories at the Town Hall and not a lot of statistics. I urge the City Council to research gun violence statistics and to use them as a guide when making decisions. Humans are easily swayed by fear but we need to look at facts, and the facts show us that we have gun violence because we are surrounded by guns.

I was also disappointed by the instant polls. One of the questions had far too many choices and another (that I mentioned above) had confusing wording. In the future it might be a good idea to have the poll questions written by someone who has experience writing polling questions to get valid numbers. I would also encourage the organizers to think about asking an instant poll question and then opening up discussion about that specific question. The polls and speaking topics were disjointed.

Thank you again for hosting this and similar events. I hope the City will consider my input.

Thank you,  
Stacy Duffy

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Kirkland Safe member input on gun safety

**From:** Sigrid Elenga [<mailto:sigride@mobilegis.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, June 4, 2018 1:56 PM

**To:** James Lopez

**Subject:** Kirkland Safe member input on gun safety

Dear Mr. Lopez,

I am a member of Kirkland Safe, but am away from Kirkland when Kirkland Safe meets on June 12 to discuss with you measures for gun safety in Kirkland. I am therefore sending my input in form of a letter that presents my views. I appreciate your including it in the general feedback.

If possible, please send me the overall report that you might collect from that meeting. I am on email during my absence.

Thank you and best regards,

Sigrid E. Elenga

[sigride@mobilegis.com](mailto:sigride@mobilegis.com)

206-390-7219 (cell)

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## City of Kirkland City Council Gun Safety or Safety Without Guns

The idea around increasing safety while leaving the abundance of guns “as is” or thinking of the abundance of guns as an American standard or even of thinking of the abundance of guns as a logical consequence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is futile.

On June 3, 2018, the television program of the Parkland school shooting was shown on MSNBC. You saw the students mourning their peers, who lost their lives, and safety in that high school was increased, that is, controls were increased, but students did not feel safe. These controls also did not prevent a later school shooting in Texas. 26 students since Parkland lost their lives, and it is probably not the last. There is no other country in the world that has school shootings or mass shootings as regularly as the US. The president tells us repeatedly that he is above the law while committing illegal steps toward the Justice department and the Commerce department and supporting Zinke who does the same with the the EPA. Watching the presidents and House in their blatant abuse of laws puts the responsibility on US citizens who want the government to show respect for the laws and for the well-being of all of our citizens.

This idea that we should be satisfied with a shooter being 21 instead of 18 is ludicrous, or that someone’s background was checked is no guarantee. The idea that anybody can have a gun is ludicrous. Guns are for killing, not for safety.

The NRA, the Republican Congress, and President Trump all side with the business interests of the NRA; all refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was for a time when a household could have one gun so the former English governmental forces could not take over. Instead, the American current government has taken over by not protecting civilians, students, teachers, and communities, but protecting right-wing individuals who are obsessed with hoarding guns, including automatic guns for warfare, because the government promotes fear with their lies against immigrants and non-whites. Under the guise of safety, they actively hinder safety. With their pathetic attempt to calm citizens’ complaints by increasing the gun buyer’s age from 18 to 21, they suggest that being mowed down by a 21-year old shooter would be less lethal.

That the age of a person who buys a gun is not a cure should be evident; however, not having any guns available for purchase would reduce these scandalous killings. In Australia, for example, the government bought back the guns to reduce deaths by shootings. They have not had any school shootings.

Because gun laws range widely from permitting all kinds of guns in various states to less, we need a more vigorous and all-encompassing approach. Because we in all states in the US want to live without threat to our lives from guns either owned by the military, the police, or each other, state governments under the leadership of responsible representatives need to file a class-action suit to force a review and redefine of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment by the Supreme Court, which then would limit ownership to one gun per household depending completely on proven need, allow no concealed weapons, and definitely no military-type guns like the RT-15.

Relying on monitors, police in the corridors of schools, school counselors, and the infamous “thoughts and prayers” do not work. We don’t need guns if we want safety. We need better education to reduce poverty and to enable people to meet their economic demands. Limiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment right to guns to a critically few with proven needs is the only chance to prevent gun deaths. The government should confiscate or buy back extra guns as an incentive to reduce violence.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to send you this proposal and for including it in how you govern on a local level and how you promote this idea to State leaders.

Respectfully,

Sigrid E. Elenga  
sigride@mobilegis.com  
425-827-6124

6/26/2018

David Wolbrecht  
Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator  
City Manager's Office

Dear David,

I am writing with feedback regarding the recent town hall on Community Safety and Gun Safety.

First of all, thanks to everyone who worked organizing and facilitating the event.

Second, let me mention a little about myself. My wife and I have lived on Finn Hill for nearly 11 years. I retired from Bellevue College after a career spanning over forty years at three different colleges. I purchased my first firearm in 2008 after having no previous experience with a gun. Several years ago I joined the Interlake Sporting Association in order to become more proficient in the safe use of firearms and archery. By the way, I am NOT a hunter, just a target shooter.

What really motivated me to become a firearms owner is my appreciation for and support of our unique American constitutional right to "keep and bear arms". There is not another country on the planet with this same freedom in law. I do not want to see that right infringed upon more than it already has been.

I appreciated hearing what the Kirkland City Attorney shared, especially his last point regarding mental health. Most homicides (whether by gun or other means) and mass shootings are committed by people who have some known history of internalized rage or emotional instability. We need to identify these people and get them help before they are allowed access to a firearm.

I support fixing our somewhat broken federal instant background check system (NICS) operated by the FBI. Maybe it could work similar to the National Sex Offender Public Website (NOSPW) registry operated by the Justice Department, which seems to do an effective job.

I also support efforts by Kirkland and other cities to improve access to firearms safety training courses and general community safety classes. The NRA and other local entities do excellent training.

I would be willing to be part of a focus group, if needed.

Roger Ewald  
8511 NE 142 St.  
Kirkland, WA 98034  
425-587-1259

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Gun Safety

**From:** Chris Fox [<mailto:cfox@isomedia.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:38 AM

**To:** James Lopez

**Subject:** Gun Safety

Hi Jim,

Again, congratulations on your recent promotion to Assistant City Manager! To borrow from the Allstate commercial, "Kirkland is in good hands."

On the topic of gun safety, my heightened concern is to reduce and hopefully eliminate child deaths. With that in mind, here are two of many helpful resources:

Brady Campaign: <http://www.bradycampaign.org/our-impact/campaigns/keep-kids-and-families-safe>

And excerpt from the website:

### **In One Year on Average (ages 0-19)**

**17,102 American children and teens** are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, or by police intervention.

**2,737 kids** die from gun violence:

- 1,606 murdered
- 958 die from suicide
- 110 killed unintentionally
- 26 killed by legal intervention
- 36 die but intent was unknown

**14,365 kids** survive gun injuries:

- 11,321 injured in an attack
- 232 survive a suicide attempt
- 2,747 shot unintentionally
- 65 shot in a legal intervention

**In America, 1 out of 3 homes with kids have guns and nearly 1.7 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded gun. Talking to children about the dangers of firearms is not enough. [Take Action with Asking Saves Kids Campaign now \(ASK\).](#)**

[CNN - Guns kill nearly 1,300 US children each year, study says](#)

[By Jacqueline Howard, CNN](#)

Chris

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## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Tonyggir <tonyggir@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** Ban assault weapons require gun safes

- Education and training programs to support responsible firearm ownership ( good to prevent accidents useless to prevent a shooter)
- Mental health support and initiatives ( no way you can monitor everyone simply impossible. we can't even take care of those we know have mental health issues. Anyway often it's just anger not even mental health)
- State and local legislation on firearm safety (ban assault weapons require gun safes)

I appreciate your efforts but they are far short, not near enough. Need to ban assault weapons and require gun safes for all guns.

Nothing less will work. Of course this is too hard. That's why it has not been and most likely will not be done. until it is done the problem will remain

Tony Girolami  
5526 105th Ave ne  
Kirkland Wa 98033

Sent from my iPad Air

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Kerry Glassburn <kerry.glassburn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 23, 2018 11:51 AM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** City safety

Hello.

I recently read about some of the proposals being considered by the Kirkland City Council including safe gun storage and reporting requirements, and I wanted to say I fully support these ideas. I like that the city is moving forward on increasing safety by placing some restrictions on firearms. Thank you for working on this on behalf of the residents of Kirkland.

Regards,  
Kerry Glassburn  
98033

Kirkland Safe  
Pam Hynes  
9201 NE Juanita Dr. #202  
Kirkland, WA  
98034

RECEIVED  
APR 20 2018  
CITY OF KIRKLAND  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

April 17, 2018

Mayor Amy Walen and Kirkland City Council Members  
City of Kirkland  
123 Fifth Avenue  
Kirkland, WA  
98033

Dear Mayor Walen and Kirkland City Council Members:

I am writing to ask that you pass the Resolution to Save Lives through Gun Safety. This proposal addresses the fears that many people in Kirkland, and throughout the State of Washington, are feeling right now.

I am a grandmother of six grandchildren, one of which is in the Lake Washington School District. I want them all to be safe, whether it be at school, at the movies, mall or at friend's houses. Guns are a right, but that right should not be unlimited. People who own guns should have to demonstrate that they will handle them responsibly and store them safely. This seems like a reasonable request to make in order to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Please pass this important resolution to help keep our Kirkland community safe.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pam Hynes

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** LARRY F KILBRIDE <kilbride23@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2018 11:04 AM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** Fwd: 2 videos

----- Original Message -----  
From: K7APB <ki7ibu@gmail.com>  
To: Larry Kilbride <kilbride23@comcast.net>  
Date: June 22, 2018 at 1:42 PM  
Subject: 2 videos

The video of David George is complete - 8 minutes. All other versions have been edited. It is important to see the full 8+ minutes.

"I carry a firearm for the same reason that I carry a first aid bag. Hoping never to use them, but always being prepared nonetheless." - David George

[David George](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8S2OKq8l-s) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8S2OKq8l-s>

[Mark Robinson](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBEUIJZg5CY) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBEUIJZg5CY>

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Leah Kliger <leahkliger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2018 6:26 PM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht; James Lopez  
**Subject:** Gun Safety Recommendations and Priorities

June 12, 2018

To: Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager, Kirkland  
David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

From: Leah Kliger

The City Council and City Manager's approach to dealing with gun safety in Kirkland is to be applauded. Getting citizen input to better define the City's approach and for prioritizing is so wise. Thanks for leading this effort.

My recommendations for City of Kirkland Initiatives are below. Please note I recognize that you are paying close attention to recommendations and suggestions from Indivisible and KirklandSafe. I wanted to give you a list of my personal suggestions, I have underlined in bold those initiatives that I have yet to hear others talk about but feel, strongly that #4 Advocating for smart gun technology and providing free trigger locks to Kirkland residents, #5 Holding education/community conversations on a variety of topics and distributing free firearm safety tips for families with kids, and #6 City buy-back program of all semi-automatic weapons, buying only smart hand guns for Kirkland police officers, and supporting and promoting economic parity are among my top priorities.

### 1. **Promote Responsible Gun Ownership**

- Registration of all firearms.
- Gun licenses for all who want to continue to own approved firearms including:
  - Comprehensive background checks, psych evaluation, safety training, marksmanship training, and meeting strict storage requirements..
  - License renewal required after a certain number of years--all the requirements must be completed again for license renewal.
- **Insurance for all firearms.** Let the insurance market set rates based on their analysis of risk. Then, people can decide if it's financially worth it to own a gun.

### 2. **Reduce Mass Shootings**

- Ban semi-automatic weapons. Keep shotguns, revolvers, and bolt-action rifles legal. People can still still hunt, defend their home, and compete in sport shooting.

### 3. **Public Health/ Mental Health Prevention and Treatment**

- Ensure accessible, high quality, culturally competent and accessible mental health treatment
- Regularly schedule suicide prevention courses.
  - If a child, teen, or anyone in your home is known (or thought to be) suicidal, remove all guns from your home.

- Advocate for legislation that will keep guns out of the hands of individuals that are a danger to themselves or others

#### 4. Reduce Accidental Shootings

- **Advocate for smart gun technology.** We use smartphones for everything. Why can't we apply the technology to handguns?
- **Provide free trigger locks to Kirkland residents**
- Work to ensure storage requirements are met: locking safes, store weapons unloaded, ammunition stored separately.

#### 5. Promote Awareness & Education

- **Hold City Sponsored Community Conversations** such as:
  - a. **Preventing Gun Violence:** Local community leaders and others share their personal stories and professional insights and then group could explore how attendees can take personal and collective action. Primary focus could be the impact on families, children and adolescents.
  - b. **Promoting Gun Safety: A Public (Mental) Health Challenge**
  - c. **Active Shooter Training** for Kirkland residents.
  - d. Support Local Community Gun Safety Programs
  - e. **Teach firearm safety for all ages**
- **Distribute Free Firearm Safety Tips for Parents with Kids i.e. flyers, booklet, magnets, bookmarks, on City Website, etc.**
  - Ask if there are unlocked guns in play-date homes before your children go to play.
  - Tell kids that when they see a gun, they should STOP, don't touch, leave the area quickly and calmly, and tell an adult right away.
  - Educate children to treat all firearms as loaded and dangerous.

#### 6. City Government:

- **City buy-back program of all semi-automatic weapons**
- **Police Department, when buying new handguns guns for officers, buy only smart guns**
- **Supporting and promote economic parity, since gun violence often has roots in economic disparity**
  - Defend existing gun safety laws and oppose any efforts to undermine them
  - Work to secure state budget funding for research on gun violence prevention
  - Promote Local Dialogue: Join with other Eastside cities to create an Eastside culture of gun safety; sponsor classes, advocate for gun safety rules

Thank you,

Leah Kliger

125 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Kirkland, WA (8033

425 785 8040 (c), 425 827 7746 (h)

KirklandSafe, Co-Founder

Kirkland Cultural Arts Council, Former member and chair

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** TomLangcom <tomlangcom@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9:56 AM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** Comments on Kirkland's gun safety initiative

David Wolbrecht  
Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator  
[dwolbrecht@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:dwolbrecht@kirklandwa.gov)

Dear Mr. Wolbrecht:

Congratulations on a professional and successful town hall meeting on gun safety. Very nicely done.

Below are some actions that Kirkland might be able to take to improve gun safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tom Lang

### **Considerations in Gun Safety**

I think it is important to note that the data overwhelmingly show the value of more restrictive gun laws, which would save lives and are supported by a majority of the population.[1,2] Many less-restrictive gun laws are industry-sponsored initiatives passed by lobbyists and are not widely supported by the public.[3] Further, these less-restrictive laws benefit a very small percentage of the public while putting the rest of the population at risk. Self-defense with a gun is rare and not more effective at preventing injury than other protective actions.[4]

What makes the problem so difficult is that the debate is not about guns; it's about what people are afraid of and how they cope with these fears. Whether these fears are grounded in fact is not important, but the belief that gun ownership will allay them is demonstrably false at the societal level, an argument many individual gun owners find completely irrelevant. The gun debate is a debate about worldview and values, not guns, not facts, and not public safety.

### **Possible actions that can be taken by Kirkland, assuming no preemption by the State [5]:**

- 1) Require background checks on all gun purchasers
- 2) License firearm owners
- 3) Register all firearms
- 4) Regulate firearms dealers and ammunition sellers

- 5) Require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement within 48 hours of the time he or she knew or reasonably should have known of the loss or theft.
- 6) Impose a waiting period before the sale of a firearm
- 7) Limit firearm purchases to one per person every 90 days
- 8) Establish ammunition record-keeping requirements (especially for armor-piercing handgun ammunition, 50 caliber bullets, and soft- or hollow-point bullets)
- 9) Have law enforcement send letters to gun purchasers reminding them of their responsibilities
- 10) Require that all students receive mental health screening in schools
- 11) Require residents to complete (and pay for) a live-fire safety course before purchasing a gun
- 12) Require gun owners to purchase liability insurance to cover damages linked to their guns

1. <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/statistics/>
2. <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/research/>
3. <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/polling/>
4. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/gun-threats-and-self-defense-gun-use-2/>
5. of these suggestions come from The Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which issues model regulations on gun safety. <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/resources/model-laws/>

10003 NE 115th Lane  
 Kirkland, WA 98033  
 425-636-8500  
 tomlangcom@aol-.com

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Thank you for tonights town hall meeting.

**From:** Brian Mouncer [mailto:curious425@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 1:56 AM

**To:** David Wolbrecht

**Subject:** Thank you for tonights town hall meeting.

I've wanted to go to other such meetings, but Olympia is a long way to go for someone who works and has a busy family with kids. So I really appreciate this local meeting, and the opportunity I was given to speak to the entire room. Even if I was so nervous I forgot to mention several things I planned on saying. This is the first time I felt I had a voice or any amount of representation outside voting once a year...

As is said to the room, I find it very frustrating to see new law after new law proposed or even passed that ban certain guns because of the way they look or how many bullets they hold, and are completely useless and do nothing but make gun ownership more difficult for normal regular people.

I used the california assault weapons ban as a typical example, when their laws targeted guns that look like military m16s by restricting civilian rifles with pistol grips or bayonet lugs. This did not get rid of ar-15, it simply means owners in california had to grind off the lugs and change the pistol grip to a handle with a plastic paddle on the back of the grip to keep you from completely wrapping your thumb around the grip. There are an estimated 400,000 AR style rifles in CA, but in the last 10 years only about 40,000 people have bothered to come forward and register their rifles, and the CA bans did nothing to stop 2 of the mass shootings in CA since the ban and registration requirement went into effect. I am unaware of any crime prevented by these bans based on cosmetic features. I don't want WA to go down this money wasteful and fear based legal path.

We already have laws for child proof trigger locks to be offered and sold with every gun sale in WA, but we can do better to prevent theft than a simple tax break is gun safes. I highly support very limited scope laws around more secure HOME storage, so guns are harder to steal. However I was deeply disturbed when Patty Kuderer came to my house, on her door to door campaign walk last week. I mentioned we didn't see eye to eye on gun control, but I did support better home storage laws as the only good proposals I've seen in years. We started talking about her plans to require registration and storage of assault rifles ONLY at sanctioned gun ranges. Besides being just plain wrong on principal alone, it completely overlooks rural citizens that routinely shoot in their own back yards, it makes me question if politicians ever think through the pure logistics of the laws they propose. E.g do you know how many "rifle ranges" (not short 50 yard pistol ranges) we have in Kirkland, or even all of King County? I know of only two, the private members only Interlake Sportsman Club right next to my house in Rose Hill, and another in Kenmore. With limited public access! Can you imagine the nightmare if every single ar-15 owner in King County had to come to Kirkland or Kenmore to shoot, and how many climate controlled lockers they would have to install to store the thousand of rifles...

I think it would be better to focus our efforts and money on better social and psychological services. Supporting more and better rifle ranges in our area, and by fixing the data reported to the NICS background data base, both locally and nationally. At least 3 of the last mass shooting would not have happened if states, FBI, and the DOD had done their jobs and properly reported criminal and psychological records to the existing NICS system on time. We as a city and a state can do better at this. We can also do better by improving our current laws to allow family members to flag another family member for legal review and temporary entry into NICS (similar to the extreme risk protection orders we created two years ago). And it is important that their guns be securely

stored in humidity controlled storage. And returned to them when or if the review is done and their right restored. They should never have to worry about their irreplaceable collection being damaged, destroyed, or sold off while under such a review or temporary order.

<http://fixnics.org/factinfo.cfm>

I would also like to see Kirkland offer more sessions of the "Harborview Hospital Stop the Bleed" first aid classes. Not just to the public, but to every single teacher and student in Kirkland schools. Especially if you can get the actual trauma surgeons to come give the talks (the class my son and I went to, was in Seattle, and the ER team that gave the class was fabulous). It's especially valuable knowledge, and not just for the rare chance you witness a shooting, but for natural disasters and accidents too. It would also be great if the entire city council could find the 2.5 hours needed to take this class. If not here, then over at Harborview.

<http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/stop-the-bleed-washington/#kirkland>

As far as securing our schools, I would like to see each and every classroom with a secure internal lock and 4 inch screws all the way around the door frame. Screws and locks are inexpensive and a huge boost to classroom lockdown security. And also have the outside rally points we use for fire drills reviewed for safety from shootings as well as likely access paths for ramming attacks with a car or truck. As good as our lockdowns are, I worry someone will just pull the fire alarm, and then drive the crowd over with a truck or van.

Reinforcing doors: <https://youtu.be/R0-3iIDM1M>

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle-ramming\\_attack](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle-ramming_attack)

Thanks again for the town hall, and for taking the time to read this, and the links to additional information.

Brian Mouncer.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8 Active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: inquiry about possible requirement for reporting lost or stolen firearms

-----Original Message-----

From: Penny Sweet  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:46 AM  
To: Debbie and Jerry <debbieandjerry@yahoo.com>  
Cc: Kurt Triplett <KTriplett@kirklandwa.gov>; Cherie Harris <CHarris@kirklandwa.gov>  
Subject: RE: RE: RE: inquiry about possible requirement for reporting lost or stolen firearms

Hi Debbie, Thanks for following up. You are right. This discussion has heated up considerably. Post Parkland we have been doing quite a bit regarding all issues of gun safety. As a matter of fact, my husband Representative Larry Springer, Mayor Walen and myself met with representatives of Kirkland Safe, Indivisible and Citizens for Gun Responsibility just last Tuesday evening to discuss the State's and the City's role. Prior to that we hosted an open meeting at city hall on the day of the walk out that filled council chambers and then in concert with the school district participated in an open discussion at Lake Washington High School. We, the city are putting together a list of priorities for our next steps including a potential legislative agenda to shop to the State. I (we) hope to host some kind of a town hall or meeting to share progress with the community. Expect to hear more about this soon. I'm ccing Kurt Triplett our city manager to make sure your comments are included in this body of work. Penny

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From: Debbie and Jerry [debbieandjerry@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 7:53 AM  
To: Penny Sweet  
Subject: Re: RE: RE: inquiry about possible requirement for reporting lost or stolen firearms

Hello Councilmember Sweet,

Any news on this? I didn't reach out sooner because I had to move my mom up here on an emergency basis and her needs have taken priority. Gun safety and gun violence reduction has certainly been in the news lately. Sue Amarsi, another member of our "group of concerned Kirkland citizens (KPAC)", has been in touch with Mayor Walen as part of this recent groundswell of action by groups like Kirkland Safe and Indivisible. Did you get the chance to discuss lost or stolen firearm reporting with the police department and the Public Safety Committee?

Regards,  
Debbie Ohman

On Monday, January 22, 2018, 7:49:59 PM PST, Penny Sweet <PSweet@kirklandwa.gov> wrote:

Give me a month. The Chief is out of town til next week and I sent it to her specifically so she can check with the police chief group on other municipalities experiences. p \_\_\_\_\_

From: Debbie and Jerry [debbieandjerry@yahoo.com<mailto:debbieandjerry@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 7:47 PM  
To: Penny Sweet  
Subject: Re: RE: inquiry about possible requirement for reporting lost or stolen firearms

Thank you Penny. Is there a date I can put on my calendar when I should reach out to you again and see what news there might be on this issue?

Regards,  
Debbie

On Monday, January 22, 2018, 6:48:25 PM PST, Penny Sweet  
<PSweet@kirklandwa.gov<mailto:PSweet@kirklandwa.gov>> wrote:

Thanks Debbie, I will certainly follow up with the department and Public Safety Committee. Thanks for the suggestion.

---

From: Debbie and Jerry  
[debbieandjerry@yahoo.com<mailto:debbieandjerry@yahoo.com><mailto:debbieandjerry@yahoo.com<mailto:debbieandjerry@yahoo.com>>]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:59 PM  
To: Penny Sweet  
Subject: inquiry about possible requirement for reporting lost or stolen firearms

Dear Councilmember Sweet,

I'm contacting you since I see you are chair of the Public Safety Committee. As a member of a group of concerned Kirkland citizens, I'm writing to inquire if the city of Kirkland has considered an ordinance requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. The City of Edmonds has such an ordinance; I've included the text below - it's quite succinct. Data on lost or stolen firearms could strengthen efforts to reduce gun violence. This information can deter gun trafficking as police know if someone is serially reporting lost or stolen guns. Reporting assists police in determining who last owned a gun and so might have knowledge of a crime in which that gun was used. Such an ordinance protects responsible gun owners by making it clear a gun used in a crime was no longer in their possession. Recovered weapons can be more easily returned to their rightful owners. Someone who has lost the right to possess a gun might claim their weapon(s) are lost or stolen when police come to remove them. Reporting requirements mean police can quickly see if such an event has been reported, and if not they can levy a fine.

Another member of our group attended Coffee with a Cop recently, and broached the subject of gun violence reduction. Obviously this was just a casual conversation, but this officers' response to requiring reporting of lost or stolen firearms was positive. The officer noted that when the Kirkland PD gets a stolen gun (from a criminal, etc.) it is often responsible for six or seven crimes.

Has the Kirkland City Council every considered such an ordinance? If we are interested in pursuing this issue, might you have any suggestions for us?

Regards,  
Debbie Ohman  
11404 NE 103rd Place, Kirkland

Copied from the City of Edmonds Code  
5.24.070 Reporting theft or loss of firearm required.[<http://www.codepublishing.com/cgi-bin/sm-share-en.gif>]

A. If a firearm is lost or stolen, the person who owned or was in possession of the firearm shall report the theft or loss to the Edmonds police department if the loss or theft occurred in Edmonds. The report shall be made within 24 hours after the theft or loss is first discovered, and shall include to the extent known:

1. The firearm's caliber, make, model, manufacturer, and serial number;
2. Any other distinguishing number or identification mark on the firearm; and
3. The circumstances of the loss or theft, including the date, place, and manner.

B. On receipt of a report of a stolen or lost firearm under this section, the Edmonds police department shall enter into the National Crime Information Center Database the following information, to the extent known:

1. The firearm's caliber, make, model, manufacturer, and serial number; and
2. Any other distinguishing number or identification mark on the firearm.

C. Any violation of or failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall constitute a civil infraction and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00. [Ord. 4060 § 1, 2017].

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## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: School Safety & Gun Violence on the Eastside

**From:** VERNON SCHRAG [<mailto:dwights30@comcast.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2018 2:24 PM

**To:** James Lopez

**Cc:** [lwright@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:lwright@bellevuewa.gov); [bmiyake@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bmiyake@bellevuewa.gov)

**Subject:** School Safety & Gun Violence on the Eastside

To: Jim Lopez, Kirkland Assistant City Manager (123 5th Ave Kirkland 98033). **Separate USPS letter to follow**

Dear Jim,

Thanks for all Kirkland Leaders are doing, Town Halls and Resolutions to make public safety a priority. All of you should feel pride for your bravery in the face of many decades of leadership vacuum on gun safety issues. All surrounding communities will be forever thankful that you've stepped up to the challenge. We hope to do the same here in Bellevue, too.

Even though I live just across the city boundary with Kirkland in Bellevue 98004, your efforts impact all of us nearby. Thank you for reading the attached comments on behalf of many in surrounding communities who have no voice but feel as I do.

Feel free to include these sincere comments in your Town Hall materials, if appropriate. **I know you and many leaders care deeply**, but some may not feel a sense of urgency or know how to act for real change. And some may believe we shouldn't play patty-cake any longer with haters and bullies packing guns.

In recent weeks I've been blessed and fortunate to to meet and discuss these issues with some concerned people of Mercer Island, Bothell, Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond, unincorporated King County and even Bainbridge Island. We find common interests, sense of urgency like Kirkland does. And deep concerns over Gun Violence taking place amongst all of us. Some lost loved ones are gone due to school shootings; and family member's lives changed forever.

We've also been in communications with WA Legislators and leaders of AWSP (Assoc. Washington State Principals), many of whom likely feel heavy burdens on their hearts to do something meaningful this year to protect students, teachers and administrators. Keep up your brave fight for our Eastside communities. We will too.

Sincerely, Dwight Schrag

Bellevue resident

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**To: Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager  
123 5th Ave, Kirkland WA 98033**

U.S. GUN VIOLENCE DILEMMA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Perversions of American Liberty

Citizens, especially women, ethnic minorities/people of color and ALL children, have become our society's most fearful and vulnerable. Most are afraid to openly meet over real concerns that deranged NRA "gun-nuts" may find out (who or where or when) they join together to address firearms safety in schools, public places or the streets. Public School Teachers are also afraid and concerned for their personal safety, too. Our State Legislators and County officials as well. Truth be told, we all are!

NRA announcements such as lobbyists describing students as "collateral damage" and other vile, crude, ultimate threats against students, media or Gun Safety groups creates a First Amendment threat-crisis for our legislators, educators, concerned parents and all of U.S. society. Who should we trust to do anything for Public Safety?

For decades now, we've been frozen in place as a nation. Violence affects us all on a personal level and harms our mental sense of wellbeing every day. Students hide under desks with their teachers during required safety drills. Armed security walks our school hallways. Betsy DeVos says guns in school will protect "against grizzlies". We should call B.S. on such creepy, unethical people as Betsy. Everyone who must crawl on the floor in schools, going through such a disgusting, fearful exercise becomes permanently changed. Their wellbeing will never be the same again. Does anyone care? Do U?

For King County Eastside cities of WA State this has become unacceptable to the majority who don't have any idea what to do about these hateful, destructive threats. Media professionals have now become kill-targets for NRA or 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment gun nuts and unhinged, hate-filled murderers. Even AG Jeff Sessions has become comfortable going on camera to spout his hateful rhetoric towards children and immigrants. Maybe it's too late for the rest of us, but we should at least use our First Amendment rights to demand immediate steps for our Public Safety.

There are City Codes and existing "protective laws" on the books. But they're weak, unenforceable and patently ridiculous in most cases. They serve the NRA Lobby, not the 95 percent of everyday citizens. Laws and enforcement of WA laws for Public Safety protections must be fully addressed; and changed immediately. The status quo has become unworkable and unsafe for public schools, universities and/or all public places not protected by heavily armed law enforcement. Trained law enforcement officers are coming under deadly fire and attacks by firearms from local purveyors of military assault weaponry. Does anyone care? Do U?

Police officers have become so skittish, nervous and afraid of possible killers "packing weapons" that they're killing innocent, unarmed citizens and mentally handicapped people without stopping to think; and shooting them in the back or worse. Does anyone care? Do U?

No citizen should put up with the NRA's influence and hateful rhetoric. I won't!

**Sincerely,**

**Dwight Schrag, 1106 108th Ave NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004**

## David Wolbrecht

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**Subject:** RE: Gun Safety

**From:** Kari Scully [mailto:kariscully@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2018 12:01 PM

**To:** David Wolbrecht

**Subject:** Re: RE: Gun Safety

My feedback is we need to support all the considerations on the City of Kirkland slide show. I am willing to pay for it. I am also interested in seeing gun safety education in the schools. LWSD only provides ALICE training but no education on situational gun safety. They educate on safe sex, drugs and the dangers of drinking and driving. Adding in the messages of don't touch a gun, what do you do if you find one, what guns are in your parents home and friends home, are they locked up, and similar practice conversations that should be part of the safety messaging. It is time! The kids are already scared from real situations in schools. We had one at Juanita HS this year. It is time to start the gun safety conversation in schools and start preparing them to have these conversations. With the coming selection of a new LWSD superintendent, I am hoping the city will meet with them to create a district education plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kari

Zip, 98034

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Elizabeth Standal <standalem@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 2:12 PM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Subject:** Gun Safety Measures

Hello,

I'm writing as a longtime Kirkland resident, teacher, and concerned community member. I was happy to attend the Kirkland City Council's town hall yesterday and to learn more about measures to improve gun safety.

Referring to the measures outlined in the town hall handout ("Enhanced Safety for a Thriving City"), I support most of the plans, but I'm disappointed that these will be funded by a sales tax (phase 1) and property tax (phase 2).

Washington State has one of the most regressive tax codes in the US, with low- and middle-income residents disproportionately taxed while high-income residents get away with paying less. Sales and property taxes perpetuate this bad system. This affects me personally as a recent first-time property buyer who has been hit by an unexpected decrease in income.

As an alternative, please fund these measures with taxes on the gun owners, sellers, and users who are contributing factors in this public safety problem (like the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol). Tax sales of guns, ammunition, etc., and tax the use of gun ranges.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Standal

## David Wolbrecht

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**From:** Brad Williamson <brad.williamson@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:20 PM  
**To:** David Wolbrecht  
**Cc:** Amy Walen; Toby Nixon; Cherie Harris; Kurt Triplett; Jay Arnold  
**Subject:** Written feedback on gun safety & community safety, and thank you!

Slight correction.

---

**From:** Brad Williamson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:16 PM  
**To:** dwolbrecht@kirklandwa.gov  
**Cc:** Amy Walen <AWalen@kirklandwa.gov>; Toby Nixon <TNixon@kirklandwa.gov>; Cherie Harris <CHarris@kirklandwa.gov>; Kurt Triplett <KTriplett@kirklandwa.gov>; Jay Arnold <JArnold@kirklandwa.gov>  
**Subject:** Written feedback on gun safety & community safety, and thank you!

Hi

Firstly, thank you for hosting the town hall on community and gun safety.

Honestly, I was a little skeptical at first as to how this would turn out, but was pleasantly surprised at how civil and orderly the discussion was from both sides of the audience. Not to mentioned, it was very organized.

I wanted to speak at the end, but time got away, and I should have put my name on a card. Having said that I would like to provide some written feedback that I would like you to incorporate into your overall feedback.

My view is that the United States of America doesn't just have a gun problem, but we have a growing violence problem that I consider an epidemic.

What we **do know** is that:

1. The second amendment will **not** be repealed any time soon, and probably not in my life time.
2. The gun population will not reduce any time soon.
3. The NRA will continue to exist.

What we **don't know** is what:

1. Is causing violence to increase?
2. The reason is behind the increase in mass shootings?
3. Will gun control, further education or changing the laws will help? We simply do not know.

One thing we need our country to do is firstly step up and not wait for the dust to settle before stepping in. Conversations are great to have, but it is time for action. **We need to figure out the root cause** to these problems. The federal government has stopped this through the 1996 omnibus spending bill rider (Dickey Amendment) that prohibits the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from using funds to research gun violence. Ultimately, this needs to be repealed. In the meantime, this is where the state(s) can step up. I would like to see the Dept of Health be appropriated money where they can research this, free of political and commercial bias.

I believe this is important so we can better apply the right fixes, as a knee jerk reaction to this problem will simply not work. Australia is a good example of this. Having lived there, I can speak from experience. Back in 1996, there was a mass shooting in Tasmania, Australia (Port Arthur Massacre). The government reacted swiftly to restrict gun ownership. The guns may have reduced, but violent crime has steadily increased, which includes gun crime. And sadly, there was a mass shooting in Western Australia not too long ago.

We as a city, county, state and nation have the potential to make inroads to reduce this violence problem, while preserving the 2A and keeping the law abiding gun owners happy.

**The City of Kirkland should encourage the state legislature, to put some resources into root causing this epidemic so we can make the right changes moving forward.**

Thank you for your time, and thank you for hosting this town hall.

Regards,  
Brad Williamson  
12930 NE 128<sup>th</sup> PL, Kirkland WA 98034.  
425-444-2723