

From: richard.cosner <richard.cosner@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:08 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Ord 28624 Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council, Mayor, I understand the tax is coming under review here in June. I voiced my opinion back then that I would no longer spend any of my income in the City of Tacoma, and I have kept that promise to date!

As your constituents testify before you today, let me remind you of the troubles our world is encountering, let me remind you of the failed tax in Freattle, let me remind you how the tax failed to stop any violence, let me remind you how many businesses left Freattle, let me remind you of the Tourism lost in Freattle!

Will I need to remind you to turn off the lights as we leave Tacoma, just like Freattle is losing ground to anarchists, mob violence, riots, a dwindling and devastated Police Force with no desire to help those in need! Do I need to remind you of what used to be a picturesque Seattle that has turned into a cesspool of homeless camps, drug users, and mentally deficient people clammering for charity from the Freattlites that remain!

This is the road that you are turning down, should you follow this road of failed policies and actions we will see the same failures over run Tacoma making it the same as all those other Cities that attempted archaically designed and failed policies. All of California-failed, bankrupt! Chicago- the worst violence in the Country. Freattle- hostile take over of an area and Police Facility! There are so many things wrong with their policies that to fix it now will almost be impossible, they are losing the battle with Socialism and anarchists!

Tacoma still has a chance recover, please end these attempts at following failed policies and create actual policies that work. Work recovery systems for drug users, mental health for those on the streets, programs to take people out of homeless camps and put them in areas where they can reintegrate back into society. Partner with organizations with proven success in mental health and drug addiction. Bring support for Suicide awareness and assistance,

Suicide is where over 80% of your firearm violence occurs yet NO ONE is doing absolutely anything to address that side of the firearm debate! If you want to curb violence, start with the criminals, getting help for drug addicts, mentally unstable individuals, address suicide mental health support and intervention, and most of all, STOP following the failed policies from other cities and States!

Although, I am not your constituents, I used to come to what used to be a great City, just like Seattle! I no longer go to Freattle, and I stopped going to Tacoma. If this tax continues, I will continue my protest and not provide the City of Tacoma with any revenue from my family. It will go to other Cities and Businesses that deserve my hard earned dollar even if it means costing me more to obtain what we need!

I do hope that we can do business again in the future, until then, good day and many blessings to all of you.

Richard Cosner
507 7th Ave
Milton, WA 98354

From: dtgainer@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Ordinance 28624

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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Dear Counsel Members,

I write you to ask that you vote down the proposed ordinance to impose an unconstitutional tax on firearm and ammo purchases. We all know this is just another attempt to chip away at our second amendment rights to defend our family and property not only from criminal intent but also a tyrannical Federal, State and local government. We the People are not sheep and will not tolerate a runaway government that no longer listens to its voters whether we share the same political ideology or not. You were put in your position of leadership to represent ALL constituents, not just those that share your personal beliefs. I would think the latest upheaval and violence in Seattle and across the nation would be an eye opener for all to why we need our second amendment rights in tact.

How you vote on his matter will be remembered come reelection time

Thank You

From: Edward Winskill <Navarth@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:46 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: City of Tacoma Firearms and Ammunition Tax; Ordinance 28624

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the City Council:

I am submitting the following written testimony to the Clerk in accordance with the current procedures, for consideration at the Council's meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd 2020. My understanding is that the above firearms and ammunition tax is up for review.

I urge the Council to repeal the tax or to indefinitely extend its implementation beyond the currently-established July 1, 2020 effective date.

I wrote a detailed objection to the proposed tax before its adoption last Fall, and testified before the Council in opposition. As a result of considerable public interest and input, the council more or less 'provisionally' adopted the ordinance, with a direction to the City Manager to study its possible economic impacts, with an express view toward the possible repeal of the ordinance depending on the outcome of that study.

Of course, the Covid emergency made the study unfeasible in the expected timeframe, it has not taken place, and for that reason alone the implementation of the tax should be indefinitely delayed until the study promised to the community can be undertaken.

Moreover, the emergency has already deeply impacted the economic viability of the City's firearms retailers, and especially the smaller ones which submitted lengthy testimony at the time of the initial adoption of the tax. This was, of course, completely unanticipated by everybody. These stores and the general sporting goods stores have just been able to reopen only in the last two weeks, after 3 months of shutdown. It is now virtually certain that the tax will put the smaller stores out of business, and badly impair the prospects of the larger sporting goods stores within the city limits.

We who are traditional target shooters are the class of firearms owners who in the nature of the sport use large amounts of ammunition. A trip to the range and an hour of target practice or competition would easily cost ten dollars or more each time in just the ammunition tax alone, on top of the considerable expense of ammunition itself, and sales taxes. The result would be that the main customers would abandon the Tacoma retailers, and purchase ammunition in Fife, Lakewood, University Place, etc.

It is highly likely that this fact, combined with the tremendous economic impact of the Covid emergency, will make it impossible for these retailers to do business.

Therefore as a citizen and resident of Tacoma, I respectfully urge the Council to repeal the tax ordinance, or to put off its implementation indefinitely.

Ed Winskill
Attorney at Law
15 N. Broadway Ste. A
Tacoma 98403
253 355 8167
15 N. Broadway

From: Tom King <tking357@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:36 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Statement from a Tacoma Resident
Attachments: ordinance.pdf

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Please forward this PDF to all the members of the City Council for the June 23rd meeting. Thank You

To: Members of the Tacoma City Council

From: Tom King 3628 S Thompson Ave, Tacoma, WA

We the people who you represent would ask that you follow our requests.

1. Consider what Ordinance 28624 Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax will do to"
 - a. Small Businesses in Tacoma
 - b. Citizens of Tacoma
2. Consider the impact on the budget of Tacoma
 - a. It will cause the Citizens to buy guns and ammo out side of the Ordinance borders, therefore taking money for the budget that is generated by current means.

Warmest Regards,

Tom King

To City Clerk please see to it that the people listed below get a copy of this email. Thank you, Tom King

Send an email to: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Mayor Victoria Woodards

Council Member John Hines - Position 1

Council Member Robert Thoms - Position 2

Council Member Keith Blocker - Position 3

Council Member Catherine Ushka - Position 4

Council Member Chris Beale - Position 5

Council Member Lillian Hunter - At-Large Position 6

Deputy Mayor Conor McCarthy - At-Large Position 7

From: John R <jredal@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 2:37 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Tacoma City Council Proposed Tax on Firearms and Ammunition.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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To the City Clerk of Tacoma representing Mayor Victoria Woodards and council members:

Please consider this email as my objection to the proposed tax on firearms and ammunition scheduled to be implemented on July 1st, 2020.

Prior to the implementation of this tax, the city manager was required to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed tax. To my knowledge, this feasibility study has not been conducted.

In addition, it is my strong belief that this tax proposal will have a negative impact on local businesses. It will also do nothing to stop violent crimes from occurring. All this proposal does is punish local businesses, and law-abiding citizens, who value and respect the constitutional rights granted to every citizen of this country.

Please consider this email as my formal OBJECTION to this proposal in place of public testimony.

Respectfully,

John R.

From: Zachary Duncan <zachpduncan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:32 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: June 23 council meeting, written testimony, ordinance 28624
Attachments: Letter to Tacoma City Council June 23 2020 (1).pdf

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Good evening. Please submit this to the Mayor and the City Council. Since the meeting tomorrow is virtual and I will not be able to provide public testimony as usual, I am providing written testimony. Please confirm when you have gotten this email. I appreciate your time and hard work.

Best,
Zach Duncan

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council members

Throughout October and November, I spoke against Ordinance 28624 at multiple meetings. I am once again asking that the council repeal this ordinance. One of the amendments that was added to the ordinance was a requirement for the city manager to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed task. The main focus for the study was to determine the loss of revenue the city would lose due to gun businesses going out of business. This study never occurred. It is unwise and unfair for this tax to move forward as planned on July 1. From a money standpoint, the tax is predicted to raise approximately \$30,000 for the City of Tacoma. In the world of government programs, that is peanuts in the grand scheme of things. The owner of one of the local gun-shops in town told me that he gives the city of Tacoma approximately \$250,000 a year in taxes. So, not only will the tax raise very little revenue, the city of Tacoma will lose far more money from lost businesses (there are 3 gun-shops and one large firearms manufacturer in the city of Tacoma). Considering how many businesses are hurting right now, the city of Tacoma would be unwise to deliberately cripple an industry that is doing quite well during the pandemic.

A huge number of people showed up in October and November to speak against the ordinance. While the council was gracious in allowing us to speak, it was clear that your minds were already made up. Many of you stated that you knew that the tax was not going to fix the problem of gun violence, but it was a step in the right direction. Others of you stated that it was time for gun owners to pay their fare share for gun violence. As I stated a few months ago, statements like these are extremely insulting to those of us who own firearms. Gun owners (especially CPL holders) are the most law abiding citizens in Washington State. Myself and many others have volunteered countless hours teaching new gun owners how to be safe and

responsible. We bear absolutely no responsibility for gun violence; rather we empower people to defend themselves against such violence.

At the end of the day we cannot force you to repeal this ordinance. But what you are doing is wrong. Criminals are the ones responsible for gun violence. Not us. I am tired of hearing this "fair share" nonsense. We pay taxes, obey the law, and vote. You want to fix violence? Bring back real discipline in schools, preach against single parent households, clean up the drug addicted homeless population (funny how they enjoy more rights than we do) and hire more police. Yes, I said that. Many of us are not thrilled at you attacking the police. They have a right to defend themselves, and need to be allowed to do their job. If this tax is implemented, people are going to have a real difficult time affording guns and ammunition to protect themselves. Considering we might not have too many police by then, people are going to need protection. In this day and age of equity, please remember that a gun is the great equalizer. A 250 pound male attacker can be defeated by a much smaller individual with a pistol ready to open up some "new airways" in their attacker. Remember, when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

Sincerely,

Zachary Duncan

Rifle Coach, Firearms Instructor, Long Time resident of Tacoma

From: alejandroseverino@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:57 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Residential Testimony in Regards Of Implementing Ordinance 28624

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mayor and Council Members,

The Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax was approved back in November 2019 with an additional note in the bill by Council Member Hunter that the City Manager was to be required to conduct a feasibility study on this tax; if it was found to have negative impacts on firearm businesses, the tax can be repealed.

Since no study was conducted I find it would be irresponsible to implement a tax when businesses could severely be effected by this. In the Seattle Times, you can find news article that mention of the Gun Tax in Seattle failing to reach even half the expected revenue from the tax, and even generating less in subsequent years. Their tax also caused all but two firearm businesses from leaving Seattle after the tax essentially killed their business. And lastly, Seattle Times reports that there was a 6% rise in shootings in 2019 over 2018. With all due respect, Ordinance 28624 is very similar to Seattle's Gun Tax and would not solve any of the problems that it seeks to change. I urge you to change your mind on Ordinance 28624 and vote it off before it would affect our Tacoma business owners.

Very Respectfully,
Anthony Severino