



WHEREAS, the 460 shooting victims reported in 2021 were disproportionately people of color at 81 percent and 48 percent of fatal and nonfatal victims identified as Black, and

WHEREAS, King County has implemented programs and policies to increase gun safety, including requiring the destruction of forfeited firearms, encouraging safe firearm storage and enforcement of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and

WHEREAS, voluntary firearm and ammunition return programs have proven to be effective in removing firearms from homes and communities and provide opportunities to educate residents about gun violence reduction strategies;

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

A. The council requests the King County executive to assess the feasibility of establishing a year-round voluntary safe firearm and ammunition return program within the King County sheriff's office.

B. The assessment of the feasibility of the voluntary safe firearm and ammunition return program should evaluate, but not be limited to:

1. A process by which any individual may peaceably deliver and abandon any unwanted firearm or ammunition to any King County sheriff's office location at any time;
2. A process by which an individual can request that a King County sheriff's deputy or authorized sheriff's office employee retrieve unwanted firearms or ammunition from a specified location;
3. The destruction or disposal of all unwanted firearms and ammunition voluntarily relinquished to the King County sheriff's office;
4. The provision of monetary or other incentives to encourage community participation in the program;
5. The capacity of the King County sheriff's office to hold one or more special buy-back events each year; and
6. The cost to administer the program.

C. Based on the evaluation requested in section B of this motion, the executive should further assess whether the voluntary safe firearm and ammunition return program could be developed and implemented in collaboration with local jurisdictions throughout King County.