



<i>Tab</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Option</i>	<i>Version</i>
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“None of the money appropriated in the 2015 budget for the Seattle Police Department Chief of Police Finance General Reserve may be spent until authorized by future ordinance, and the City Council intends to place a similar restriction in the 2016 budget.”

If deemed appropriate, approximately \$250,000 might be used to fund innovations such as an acoustic gunshot locator system pilot project in the City of Seattle, a project that strives to address a key public safety concern – gun-related violence. Another \$50,000 could be available to assist with strategies related to the Neighborhood Policing Plan 2.0. As such, they may be used for a possible pilot project involving temporary hotspot cameras in areas where the community has called for them. An additional \$50,000 may also be useful for additional resources during the busy summer activity session related to the Summer of Safety. With roughly half of Seattle’s crime occurring on about five percent of the City’s blocks, the additional community policing and crime prevention funds could serve as additional resources for making headway in reducing these incidents in concentrated areas of the City.

## **Background**

### Acoustic Gunshot Locator System

Recently, there has been concern over increases in violence – particularly violence associated with firearms in the City of Seattle. A spate of highly publicized shootings and the Mayor’s recent “Summer of Safety” focus has brought the issue to the fore. Random gunshots are often an indicator of a violent act or violence to come in a community. However, research shows that they are dramatically underreported in communities throughout the country. The underreporting of random gunshots hampers efforts to identify hot spots and to reduce gun violence to ensure the safety of the citizenry. This makes it difficult to determine just how prevalent random gunfire – and by extension, gun violence - may be in a community. At times, even victims refuse to cooperate with the reporting of these incidents. The recent discovery of a man shot in the stomach in Rainier Valley serves as an example of this.

Recent UW research findings show that gun violence victimization begets further gunshot victimization. Once gun-related violence is set in motion, it appears difficult to escape it. Victims return to the community only to once again be confronted by gun-related violence and gunshots that may or may not be reported to the police. When coupled with the underreporting of random gunfire, the two issues may aggravate gun-related violence in the community.

Acoustic gunshot location systems (AGLSs) use a series of microphones and sensors that are placed throughout an area to acoustically identify gunshots. The systems are designed to detect various gun types and calibers (bullet size and strength). Using acoustic triangulation, they identify gunshots from other acoustical interference and using geographic information systems (GIS) provide an accurate location of where the shots took place. The AGLS communicates gunshot information to either a dispatch center or directly to law enforcement officers in their patrol vehicles. This includes an accurate count of the number of shots fired during a single incident and over time in an area covered by AGLSs. Some systems interface with existing video cameras and direct them to focus on an area where the system detected shots, or it can mark recorded video in an attempt to gather more visual evidence to identify the shooter, a vehicle, or a victim. A two to five square mile area of coverage costs approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000 annually. The fees cover all vendor-related costs. There could be department expenditures in addition to this. Additionally, this is an ongoing cost

<i>Tab</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Option</i>	<i>Version</i>
92	1	A	1

that requires an annual investment to continue operating the system. Increases in the coverage area would increase the ongoing cost.

An AGLS could function as part of a comprehensive, targeted approach to decrease gun-related violence in the community. AGLS would be deployed in an analytically identified ‘hot spot.’ SPD would employ a proven gun-violence reduction strategy – comprised of focused patrol activities, and treating gunshot victims against becoming a victim again. Leveraging the recent work done by UW researchers, Council will also examine funding the development and implementation of a local version of something like Caught in the Crossfire to care for victims of gun violence in the hope of reducing their re-victimization. Both these efforts strive to reduce gun violence. This pilot will also require a third party evaluation. Because of the size and scope of this option, this should be seen as a multi-year endeavor.

Neighborhood Policing Plan (NPP) 2.0

As part of Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) 62-1-A-1 adopted with the 2013 budget SPD, the Executive, and Council Staff to jointly developed a scope of work for analyzing the sworn officer staffing requirements for major police functions. In 2014, SPD expects to updates its Neighborhood Policing Plan – dubbed 2.0 – and make some boundary adjustments. Part of this plan calls for an organized approach for policing the various unique neighborhoods in Seattle. Each has different issues and different challenges. For some areas, particularly those calling for additional technological assistance associated with public safety, the use of temporary cameras in known crime hotspots may be the appropriate solution.

Likewise, there are circumstances and activities where additional resources can be a benefit to public safety. Funding proposed here may go towards assisting with the NPP 2.0 plans associated with Summer of Safety type activities to enhance enforcement efforts.

<i>Tab</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Option</i>	<i>Version</i>
92	1	A	1

**Budget Action Transactions**

**Budget Action Title:** Add \$350,000 of GSF to the Chief of Police Finance General Reserve in 2015 and 2016 for community policing and crime prevention strategies

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Add funding to the Chief of Police Finance General Reserve for community policing activities.				FG	Reserves	2QD00	00100	2015		\$350,000
2	Add funding to the Chief of Police Finance General Reserve for community policing activities.				FG	Reserves	2QD00	00100	2016		\$350,000