



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 22, 2017**

**Resolution 17-09**

**Proposed No. 17-09.1**

**Sponsors**

1           A RESOLUTION calling on lawmakers to take  
2           meaningful action to address firearm tragedy.

3           WHEREAS, firearm tragedy is one of the leading causes of premature death in  
4           the United States, Washington State and King County, and

5           WHEREAS, the number of Americans who die each year from firearms, which  
6           was 36,247 in 2015, exceeds the number of babies who die each year during their first  
7           year of life, which was 23,215 in 2014, or people who die from HIV/AIDS, which was  
8           6,465 in 2015, and will soon exceed the number of Americans who die in traffic related  
9           causes, which was 38,818 in 2015, and

10          WHEREAS, lawmakers pass protective measures for other threats to the public's  
11          health and public safety, such as seat belt laws and distracted and impaired driving laws,  
12          childhood vaccinations and regulations around the safety of our drinking water, food and  
13          other products, and

14          WHEREAS, in 2015, 716 Washington State residents died as a result of firearms,  
15          and

16          WHEREAS, in 2015, 147 King County residents died as a result of firearms  
17          including six children under age eighteen, and an additional 95 residents were  
18          hospitalized due to non-fatal firearm injuries including 9 children under age 18, resulting  
19          in an estimated \$200 million in medical costs and lost productivity in King County alone,

20 and

21 WHEREAS, firearm suicide accounts for 75 percent of firearm deaths in

22 Washington State, being 535 of the 716 deaths in 2015, and

23 WHEREAS, of all the women killed by intimate partners in the United States

24 between 2001-2012, 55 percent were killed with firearms, and

25 WHEREAS, in 2015 an estimated 21 percent of King County adults, which is

26 340,000 people, reported firearms present in their homes, including an estimated 150,000

27 King County adults who reported keeping at least one firearm unlocked, and

28 WHEREAS, during the 2015-16 school year, the Washington State

29 Superintendent of Public Instruction reported 130 incidents involving a gun on school

30 premises, transportation systems or school facilities, and

31 WHEREAS, according to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police

32 Chiefs, the total value of firearms reported stolen in Washington State in 2016 was

33 \$3,312,794, and along with data on unsafely stored firearms and firearms going to

34 schools, there is an urgent public health and public safety concern with unsafely stored

35 firearms, and

36 WHEREAS, there are some known strategies that can markedly reduce firearm

37 tragedy that our lawmakers can explore but more funding and research is needed to

38 develop additional public health and public safety prevention strategies, and

39 WHEREAS, mental health services, education and economic opportunity must

40 also be a priority to reduce both suicide and homicide rates;

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King

42 County:

43           A. The Board of Health calls on federal, state and local lawmakers to take  
44 meaningful action to address firearm tragedy including funding for already passed  
45 prevention legislation including ESHB 1840 (2014), SHB 1501 (2017) and Initiative  
46 1491 (2016), and

47           B. The Board of Health commits to supporting efforts to reduce firearm tragedy  
48 and increase mental health services, prevention and early intervention services in schools,  
49 and with community and business.

50           C. The Board of Health supports the implementation of a regional system for

51 uniformly processing civil protection orders as recommended by the Domestic Violence -  
52 Firearms Panel.

53

Resolution 17-09 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 9/21/2017,  
by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Dr. Danielson, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr.  
McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Juarez  
and Ms. Birney

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Ms. Wales

BOARD OF HEALTH  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

**Attachments:** None