Mayor Wilson's Gun Violence Plan

Summary of Key Strategies

The mayor's Gun Violence Plan brings together community violence intervention, emergency response, social services, law enforcement resources, and regional partnerships under unified leadership for the first time. It is a comprehensive plan designed to reduce the types of gun violence Seattle is experiencing and organized to deliver results.

Primary Components

- Moves community violence interrupters into the 9-1-1 the City's emergency response system for faster action when shootings occur.
- Increases bicycle patrols for visibility and faster response time while the Seattle Police Department continues to expand.
- Establishes dedicated leadership to leverage and coordinate work across City departments and community organizations across the region, because gun violence does not stop at city borders.
- Invests in youth after school programs and Teen Late Nights at community centers, while increasing free mental health services for 13—24 years old to keep youth from reaching a crisis point.
- Institutes strategic collaborations and formal homicide reviews to identify where systems and services failed and correct them so similar homicides don't occur again and create shared metrics to keep us focused on success.

Strengthening Our Police and Crisis Response when Shootings Happen

Seattle is taking decisive action to strengthen response when shootings occur, building and unifying leadership, connecting community-based services directly to crisis responders, using proven tools to prevent further harm and establishing a Violence Reduction Council to learn from every homicide to make strategic and critical system improvements.

Key Actions

- **Designating CARE the City's command center for gun reduction strategies:** The Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department, the City's third public safety department (along with Police and Fire), will lead community violence intervention work to achieve quicker coordination after emergency calls and better support for those affected by gun violence.
- **Increase police presence in impacted communities as the force continues to grow:** Seattle Police Department (SPD) will expand bicycle patrols in Belltown, North Aurora Ave N, Little Saigon, and Rainier Beach; align Narcotics Unit operations with the Community Response Group and the Gun Violence Reduction Unit to target dealers preying on people in crisis and those

selling illegal guns; and is taking first steps toward a focused deterrence approach in coordination with CARE and trusted community partners.

- **Align community-based violence services with 9-1-1 emergency response:** The 2027 proposed budget will transfer $5 million Community Violence Intervention (CVI) contracts with nine organizations, from the Human Services Department (HSD) to CARE for direct connection to 9-1-1 dispatching and SPD and Seattle Fire Department (SFD) emergency response. CVI services include support for gunshot victims and their families in partnership with Harborview Medical Center; place-based services focused on outreach, conflict mediation, hotspot stabilization, and incident recovery; and intensive individual services focused on the small subset of individuals involved in the majority of gun violence.
- **New gun violence leadership:** A new Director of Gun Violence Reduction funded in 2026 and a new Coordinator of Gun Violence Reduction in the 2027 budget will oversee and support Mayor Wilson's Gun Violence Plan at CARE.
- **Sustain expanded community crisis response hours:** The 2027—2028 budget will increase expanded Community Crisis Response working hours by 85% from 10 to over 18 hours per day. The expanded operating hours are 6:30—1:00 a.m.
- **Increasing efforts to remove guns from the streets and Extreme Risk Protection Orders:** Sustain the 2026 City investment in a new attorney in Seattle City Attorney Erika Evans' office dedicated to filing civil Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) petitions when an individual's possession of a firearm presents a significant danger to the community. ERPOs are an evidence-based, outcome-driven public safety tool that can be used with both adults and juveniles. This dedicated attorney will work directly with the Seattle Police Department, reviewing violent crime intelligence, retaliation threats, witness intimidation, and other risk indicators for ERPO eligibility to prevent violence before it happens. The focus will be areas experiencing high levels of gun violence, including Rainier Beach, North Aurora Ave N, and Belltown.
- **Launch a Violence Reduction Council for Action Review of Homicides:** The City will collaborate with Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions to establish the City's first Violence Reduction Council (VRC), a public health model used nationally to prevent violence. VRCs bring together public health, social service agencies, and criminal legal system partners to review every homicide. This structure creates an accountable process for learning from each incident, identifying system failures to guide coordinated improvements.

Investing in Violence Prevention and Supporting Those at Risk

Mayor Wilson knows that a well-resourced community is a safe community. That is why the mayor's plan adds new investments to existing programs that support youth and family safety, including those announced earlier this year as part of the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise implementation plan produced by the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL). The mayor's new budget includes expanded programming for teens through Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), providing positive places for youth to engage and receive mentorship, which complements the Human Services Department's (HSD) ongoing investments totaling over $8 million in prevention-focused services that

strengthen community safety by addressing risk factors, supporting basic needs, and ensuring youth have healthy and accessible opportunities.

Key Investments

- **New afterschool support**: Invests over $600,000 in Rainier Beach High School to pilot a new afterschool program for students and expand peer mentorships for teens at Rainier Beach Community Center. The 2027—2028 budget will fund two staff to support the afterschool program, increase funding for contracts with community-based organizations that offer services to teens, and provide staffing and training to Seattle Parks and Recreation staff who work with our teens.
- **Free Teen Late Night Programs:** The 2027—2028 budget will sustain a Teen Late Night pilot at High Point Community Center, which brings the total number of locations with Teen Late Night programming to nine citywide. Teen Late Night is a supportive environment on Friday and Saturday nights from 7:00 PM to midnight for teens ages 13—19. This popular program provides safe, enriching spaces for young people to receive educational support, cultural activities, athletics, career-readiness, and the Teen Late Night Internship staffed by caring, professional City staff, Teen Late Night provides a safe, enriching space for youth to enjoy themselves and build healthy community.
- **Expand Seattle's Community-led Safety Network**: Increase the capacity of community-based organizations contracted by HSD to work in schools and with people at greatest risk of gun violence. Service providers, schools, emergency responders, and community organizations will now operate together in one system under HSD's Community Safety Network. The Safety Network will be supported in the 2027—2028 Budget with two new roles in HSD, a Network Coordinator and a Senior Data Analyst. For Seattle communities, this means schools will have a direct line to community safety teams, support will be better coordinated, and service providers will get the training and data they need to respond properly.
- **Increased mental health resources:** All youth ages 13—24 in Seattle now have access to mental health resources at no cost through virtual providers. Additionally, five new school-based health centers will open this year in Seattle Public Schools, adding to the 21 that previously existed, with more mental health resources at each. Young people who receive these services will learn the skills to cope with the challenges of adolescence and young adulthood.
- **Seattle Youth Employment Program:** A popular City program which places young people in paid internships during the summer with City departments and non-profit partners. These internships offer job training, mentorship, resume building, and help to connect young people to long term job opportunities which offer young people the chance to contribute positively to their communities.
- **More union, family-wage job opportunities for youth:** Young people across our city are asking for opportunities to great jobs that help them thrive and stay in Seattle. By expanding our investments in union apprentice programs, we create opportunities for young people to find economic opportunities that provide a positive path forward into adulthood.

- **Seattle Promise Program:** The Seattle Promise Program guarantees two years of tuition-free enrollment at the Seattle Colleges for all Seattle Public School graduates. For many youth, the transition out of high school poses a significant challenge. By incentivizing high school graduation and offering free higher education, we are setting our young people up for successful early adulthood.

New Collaborations with the University of Washington and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

The work of reducing gun violence includes many levels and sectors of government and includes community and academic organizations. While necessary to address a problem of this scale and urgency, it requires continuous assessment for effectiveness and alignment.

Key Actions

- **Engaging the University of Washington's Center for Firearm Injury Prevention improves results:** The City will convene our community partners and the University of Washington's Center for Firearm Injury Prevention to map existing gun violence prevention and intervention programs and their data, establish a baseline of what is working, and identify those most harmed by gun violence and the services they require. This effort will identify where gaps and opportunities exist and provide a solid foundation for evaluating strategies and building Seattle-specific models tailored to our city's needs.
- **Collaborating with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and establishing a Violence Reduction Council:** Seattle has never had a structured, citywide process for examining homicides and understanding how different systems could have intervened sooner. To fix this, the City is partnering with the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions to establish Seattle's first Violence Reduction Council. The council consists of multi-disciplinary teams with practitioners from public health, social services, and the criminal legal system who will conduct in-depth reviews of each homicide, surface missed opportunities for prevention and recommend changes that strengthen how the City and its partners respond. Evaluating Seattle's gun violence programming ecosystem, with consistent data and shared metrics, will allow City and community partners to reliably assess early impact. This feedback will shape future investments and set clearer performance measures.

Working with State Legislature to Advance Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

In collaboration with our partners in the state legislature and led through the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Seattle will work to advance gun violence prevention legislation that strengthens community-led firearm safety efforts and increase firearm enforcement and regulations.

Legislative Agenda

- **Strengthen gun violence prevention:** Support community led firearm safety efforts and violence interruption programs, with targeted investments in strategies that reduce youth gun violence.

- **Regulating firearms in sensitive spaces:** Advance policies that limit firearm possession in parks, select public buildings, and major public events where children are highly likely to be present.
- **Juvenile Unlawful Possession of a Firearm Sentencing Reform:** Continue working with legislators as they evaluate options to update juvenile firearm possession and sentencing laws.
- **Regulating Firearms at Seattle Center:** Collaborate with Rep. Liz Berry and other partners to assess Seattle Center–specific firearm regulations and the operational considerations required to implement them effectively.
- **Public Safety on Aurora Ave. North:** Support a comprehensive safety strategy that integrates gun violence prevention with human trafficking intervention, victim services, multimodal transportation improvements, and community-based outreach.

Together, these efforts aim to give the City stronger regulatory authority, reinforce youth focused safety programs, and improve protections for neighborhoods experiencing persistent harm.