SAVING LIVES, SETTING REGIONAL POLICY

PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FROM FIREARMS

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

## Summary

Domestic abusers subject to domestic violence protection orders are not surrendering their firearms per state law. Seattle has an opportunity to save lives. And we can simultaneously create countywide policy to effectuate a regional response to surrendering firearms in DV cases. Funding a High Risk Firearms Prosecutor and Court Coordinator will achieve both goals.

# Problem

54% of perpetrators in domestic violence homicides were previously ordered to surrender firearms

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature passed HB 1840, which requires anyone subject to a domestic violence protection order (DVPO) to surrender:



- 2. No enforcement of non-compliance
- 3. No agreement between law enforcement agencies as to responsibility for enforcement
- 4. Limited access to firearms information

# Solution

Countywide, a law enforcement task force recommended 3 positions to fill the gap:

1. Project coordinator (funded)

- 2. High risk firearms prosecutor
- 3. Court coordinator

#### **Current DVPO Process**



The high risk firearms prosecutor will review all other cases where the respondents are non-compliant and file criminal charges, establishing policies and procedures for a regional responses to firearms surrender.

### Funding

Position	2017 Cost	2018 Cost
Paralegal, Sr.	49,652	102,975
Asst. City Prosecutor - BU	50,500	104,468
Total	\$100,152	\$207,443

#### **Proposed DVPO Process with Added Positions**

A victim of DV files a petition for a DVPO in KC

Filed petitions for DVPO are reviewed by the court coordinator who will crosscheck all respondents through firearms and criminal history databases and prepare a firearms report.

A judge reviews the petition and firearms report.

The court issues the order (DVPO + Firearms

The court coordinator flags high risk cases and refers them to the high risk firearms prosecutor to coordinate with law enforcement agencies to

In all other cases the court will set a review hearing. At the hearing the court will find

> non-compliance. The SPD investigates the non-compliance and refers charges to the high risk firearms prosecutor. The prosecutor will

- Contact the law enforcement agency where

- Assist in drafting search warrants

- Coordinate resources to effectuate surrender of firearms