

A RESOLUTION

23-377

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 3, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 to prohibit the issuance of a registration certificate for ghost guns, and to prohibit the sale or transfer of ghost guns; and to amend and An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes to prohibit the possession of ghost guns.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ghost Guns Prohibition Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) The term “ghost gun” may be used to refer generally to guns that are undetectable, untraceable, or both. The term “ghost gun” includes firearms built to avoid detection, missing serial numbers, able to be manufactured using 3-D printers and other cutting-edge technology, or able to be manufactured or assembled through commercially available kits and without the expenditure of substantial time and effort.

(b) Undetectable guns pose an imminent threat to public safety because they may thwart security screening systems and endanger people, particularly in any building or at any event requiring visitors to be screened to gain entrance.

(c) Untraceable guns pose an imminent threat because they are readily available to individuals prohibited from purchasing or possessing a commercially-manufactured firearm and because untraceable gun trafficking occurs outside the scope of existing background checks, serial numbering, waiting periods, manufacturing quality control, and other established means of firearm regulation.

(d) As part of its longstanding and common sense gun regulation policy, the District of Columbia prohibits the unlicensed manufacturing, sale, or possession of firearms, and as such, District law contains prohibitions that could be applied to ghost guns, but need to be explicitly applicable.

(e) In just one year, between 2018 and 2019, the District saw a 364% increase in the recovery of ghost guns. In 2017, the Metropolitan Police Department recovered only 3 ghost

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

guns in the District; in 2018, 25 ghost guns were recovered; and in 2019, 116 ghost guns were recovered. In just the first 6 weeks of this year, 28 ghost guns have already been recovered.

(f) The types of ghost guns recovered in the District include handguns and rifles, including assault weapons such as AR-15s. Ghost guns have been used in the commission of violent crimes, including at least one homicide and at least one instance where Metropolitan Police Department officers were targeted for assassination.

(g) There is an immediate need to clarify that District law prohibits the manufacture, sale, and possession of untraceable or undetectable firearms in the District of Columbia in order to protect the lives of residents, workers, and visitors.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Ghost Guns Prohibition Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.