

Councilmember _____

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 and An Act to control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia to clarify the prohibition on the registration and possession of ghost guns and unfinished frames or receivers.

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. It 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.

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

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

42 (e) In just one year, between 2018 and 2019, the District saw a 364 percent increase in
43 the recovery of ghost guns. In 2017, the Metropolitan Police Department recovered only three
44 ghost guns in the District; in 2018, 25 ghost guns were recovered; and in 2019, 116 ghost guns
45 were recovered. In just the first six weeks of this year, 28 ghost guns have already been
46 recovered.

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

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

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

57 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.