COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-017-2024

Proposed by Council Members Hawkins and Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Oriadha, Blegay, Watson, Olson, Ivey, Fisher, Dernoga and Franklin

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction March 19, 2024

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Unregistered Firearms—Ghost Guns

For the purpose of expressing the policy of the County Council of Prince George's County in support of the outlaw of unregistered, unregulated firearms, or Ghost Gun weapons; and in furtherance of making Prince George's County a Ghost Gun-Free Zone.

WHEREAS, according to data compiled by federal law enforcement authorities, the Justice Department has confiscated approximately 26,000 Ghost Guns; and

WHEREAS, the definition of Ghost Gun is often called a kit or Ghost Glock; and

WHEREAS, according to the available data, Ghost Gun firearms are frequently sold to minors and, because they are intentionally unregistered and lack any traceable serial number on the weapon, minors often access these weapons; and

WHEREAS, the rate of violent crimes committed in Prince George's County and Washington Metropolitan region involving the use of unregistered, unregulated firearms, also known as Ghost Guns, is alarming; and

WHEREAS, Polymar80, the nation's largest manufacturer of Ghost Guns, has agreed to stop selling their products in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the data plainly demonstrate that unauthorized access to and possession of unregulated, unregistered firearms are a profound danger to the public safety, health and welfare of the citizens and residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the current County Code offers two (2) provisions in Subtitle 14, Morals and Conduct, to address Ghost Guns, Sections 14-141 and 14-161, which state, in relevant part, as

follows:

Sec. 14-141. Transfer of weapon to minor prohibited; exception.

(a) No person shall give, sell, rent, lend, or otherwise transfer and gun or weapon . . . designed to use explosive ammunition or any projectile therefor, within the County to a minor under the age of seventeen (17) years, except where the relationship of parent and child, guardian and ward or adult instructor and pupil exists between such person and the minor.

Sec. 14-161. Sale or delivery of look-alike firearms prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to offer for sale, sell, or deliver any look-alike firearm as defined in this Division; and

WHEREAS, Section 5-701 through 5-706, Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of MD, addresses Untraceable Firearms, and calls for Prince George's County to urge the Secretary of State Police to formally adopt regulations to carry out the provision in State law; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB425 and SB387, bills that criminalize the possession of unserialized firearms, otherwise known as ghost guns or privately made firearms; and

WHEREAS, this resolution recognizes Maryland State Law which states that possessing ghost guns and the failure to comply with rules and regulations is punishable by up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to $10,000 per firearm; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland ghost gun law was promulgated on March 1st 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Council notes that surrounding jurisdictions have enacted laws to prohibit Ghost Guns, designated as a Class 5 felony with commensurate punishment, when remnants of 3.7 ounces of detectable metal that does not generate an accurate image with an X-Ray machine; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the public safety, health, and welfare of the citizens and residents of the County, the County must embrace all tools available to stop the proliferation, selling, and manufacturing of ghost guns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Prince George's County Council hereby expresses its full support of the regulation and prohibition of unregulated, unregistered firearms known as Ghost Guns, and expressing the intent of the Council that Prince George's County be a Ghost Gun-Free Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council further expresses its support of full use all legislatively available authority to control the proliferation of Ghost Guns by requiring any business or company determined to be a purveyor of firearm kits, Ghost Glocks, or other form of Ghost Gun must register the firearm by providing a traceable serial number on the frame of the gun.

Adopted this 19th day of March, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council