



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly, AD 74
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074

Re: AB 1057 (Petrie-Norris) Protecting Victims from Ghost Guns- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB)1057.

AB 1057 would strengthen California's response to the national epidemic of gun violence by defining a firearm, for the purpose of specified gun violence restraining order provisions, to include what are commonly referred to as "ghost guns" and their parts – an unfinished frame or receiver of a weapon that can readily be converted to the functional condition of a finished frame or receiver.

More than two million firearms were sold in the U.S. during the month of January 2021 alone, an 80% increase from last year, and the third highest monthly total on record. Gun sales have surged since the onset of the pandemic, including sales of ghost guns, which are extraordinarily difficult to track as they can easily be bought with cash and are not subject to background checks. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that nearly one-third of guns recovered in California were unserialized, untraceable ghost guns, putting the public and law enforcement in danger. Additionally, more than 2,500 ghost guns were connected to criminal activity in 114 federal cases from 2010 through April 2020.

Law enforcement officers or close family members can request a GVRO when an individual is deemed to be an extreme risk to themselves or others with a firearm. Current GVRO law does not explicitly list a frame or receiver of a firearm, or the unfinished frame or receiver of a weapon that can be readily converted to the functional condition of a finished frame or receiver. While our Office has successfully petitioned for the removal of guns in whole or part, AB 1057 closes the loophole in current California Code that dangerously leaves out ghost guns or their parts, and thereby does not give courts the ability to seize all weapons that may be of harm to the individual or others.

By updating the definition of seizable firearms to include parts of ghost guns for GVROs, this bill ensures that these readily available weapons which look and act like any other firearm are subject to the same rules as any other firearm.

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I have made implementing an aggressive gun safety agenda a top priority of the San Diego City Attorney's Office and have worked closely with the California Legislature to advance laws to protect Californians from gun violence.

I thank Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris for addressing this serious threat to public safety. For these reasons, my Office strongly supports AB 1057 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,



Mara W. Elliott