

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian Introduce Motion Prohibiting Ghost Guns in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA – August 10, 2021-- Following an increase in shootings, gun-related homicides and a surge in the number of “ghost guns” -- low-cost, unfinished, non-serialized guns often marketed to those who are unable to purchase firearms legally -- Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian co-presented a motion requesting the City Attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting the possession, purchase, sale, receipt and transportation of non-serialized, unfinished frames and unfinished receivers, and non-serialized firearms within the City of Los Angeles.

The City of San Diego recently approved a similar ordinance and in May the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) issued a rule that would expand the definition of a firearm to include weapons that can be assembled at home. The proposed rule aims to hold ready-to-assemble gun kits to the same legal standards as completed, serialized guns.

“Shootings and homicides have surged since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Los Angeles has been no exception. As of July 2021 homicides are up nearly 30 percent over last year and shootings are up 43 percent. Additionally, over 40 percent of guns confiscated by the ATF and a third of crime guns recovered by the LAPD in Los Angeles in 2020 were ghost guns,” said Councilmember Koretz. “With such staggering numbers and the sharp increase in hate crimes, we cannot turn a blind eye on a backdoor that allows criminals to gain access to firearms when they would otherwise be denied through the front door.”

“Ghost guns are deliberately designed to avoid tracing, and when sold without background checks, end up in the possession of felons,” said Councilmember Krekorian, who earlier this year sponsored a motion allowing a City lawsuit to go forward with pro bono counsel against Nevada-based Polymer 80, one of the nation’s largest sellers of ghost gun kits. “In Los Angeles, ghost guns were a factor in the sharp rise in homicides in 2020. This motion enables the City to move aggressively to significantly reduce the number of non-serialized firearms in our communities.”

The motion will go next to the Public Safety Committee.

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