



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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Contact:

Faith Oltman, 419-366-9393

fboltman@columbus.gov

Columbus Signs On to Brief Urging the Regulation of “Ghost Guns”

Recent ATF data estimates [10,000 ghost guns](#) were recovered in the U.S. last year

COLUMBUS – The City of Columbus is among a coalition of 11 cities, 18 states and the District of Columbia, and gun safety groups that recently filed amicus briefs supporting ongoing litigation against the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), seeking to compel the agency to regulate these homemade firearms under federal law.

“Ghost guns are unregulated, untraceable and dangerous,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “These DIY firearms undermine our gun laws by allowing domestic abusers, gun traffickers and other prohibited purchasers to avoid background checks and acquire firearms. The ATF can, and must, take action to address this ongoing threat to public safety.”

[The cities' brief](#) shows increasing rates of ghost gun recoveries and argues that ATF's failure to regulate ghost guns has led to gun crimes that might have been prevented and has complicated efforts to investigate and prosecute those gun crimes.

In a separate brief, [Prosecutors Against Gun Violence](#) disclosed that the Los Angeles Police Department has recovered more than 600 ghost guns in 2020 alone, at least 231 of which were used in serious or violent crimes such as murder and attempted murder, kidnapping, and carjacking, and 145 of which were recovered from felons who are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms. ATF officials, based on data from the agency's National Tracing Center, recently estimated in a court filing that [approximately 10,000 ghost guns](#) were recovered in the US in 2019.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal [reported](#) the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives raided the premises of Polymer80, the industry-leading ghost gun manufacturer named in the lawsuit, which is responsible for a flood of ghost guns that is being used to commit crimes in rapidly increasing numbers in cities across America. According to the ATF's search warrant application, over 86% of the nearly 1,500 ghost guns seized by law enforcement and entered into its national ballistics database in 2019 were made from Polymer80 frames.

In addition to Columbus, amici cities include Dayton, Ohio; Durham, North Carolina; Hartford, Connecticut; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; Paterson, New Jersey; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Providence, Rhode Island; Rochester, New York; and Seattle, Washington.

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