



**2A Maryland**

2A@2AMaryland.org

**House Bill 638**  
**Public Safety - Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms**  
**Unfavorable**

According to Bloomberg's Everytown organization:

*"The rise of ghost guns is the fastest growing gun safety problem facing our country."*

*"Ghost guns are predictably emerging as a weapon of choice for violent criminals, gun traffickers, dangerous extremists, and other people legally prohibited from buying firearms." <https://everytownresearch.org/report/atf-the-rising-threat-of-ghost-guns/>*

For several years, 2A Maryland has submitted Public Information Act (PIA) requests to six major law enforcement agencies seeking information on firearms, including so-called "Ghost Guns."

Despite the proponents' allegations that we are facing an imminent public safety crisis, only one law enforcement agency (Howard County) has reported any data on these firearms and even then, only 20 firearms over the three-year period from 2018 to 2020. See Attachments 1 & 2. No information regarding how or under what circumstances these firearms came into the agency's possession was provided. Most of the agencies responding reported that they do not track so-called "Ghost Guns."

H. L. Mencken wrote: *"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by an endless series of hobgoblins, most of them imaginary."* The so-called "Ghost Gun" is this year's hobgoblin.

In 1994, the hobgoblin was the so-called "assault pistol." The Maryland General Assembly reacted with a total ban on these firearms. The net result was twofold, crime did not go down and the number of so-called "assault pistols" used in crimes or confiscated by law

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enforcement increased for several years. Criminals who had previously not employed “assault pistols” to any great degree suddenly saw them as a street “status symbol” and many entered the criminal arena via straw purchases.

This Committee would do well to view Ken Burns’ excellent documentary on Prohibition and the Volstead Act. What was intended as a ban had just the opposite effect. An industry which was subject to some limited regulation evolved into the illegal bootlegging industry with homemade stills springing up across the country. What was open and controlled when legal went underground and proliferated under prohibition. Neighborhood bars stocked up on liquor. Those that had closed at 2 AM were replaced with speakeasys which remained open all night. The consumption of alcohol increased nationwide. Organized crime recognized the opportunity to profit and stepped in to take advantage of this new-found enterprise by meeting the demand.

The American people are freedom loving and do not react well to government bans. A clear example can be seen here in Maryland. Due to the posturing of anti-gun groups and more recently, the newly inaugurated President, over 111,000 Maryland citizens have become first time gun owners since 2018.

The provisions of SB 624 are so-convoluted that they actually conflict to the degree that the phrase “you can’t get there from here” seems to apply. For example:

§5-701 (J)

(1) “UNFINISHED FRAME OR RECEIVER” MEANS A PRODUCT THAT IS INTENDED OR DESIGNED TO SERVE AS THE FRAME OR RECEIVER, INCLUDING THE LOWER RECEIVER, OF A FIREARM, BUT IS IN AN UNFINISHED STATE OF MANUFACTURE.

(2) “UNFINISHED FRAME OR RECEIVER” INCLUDES A BLANK, CASTING, OR MACHINED BODY THAT REQUIRES MODIFICATION, SUCH AS MACHINING, DRILLING, FILING, OR MOLDING, TO BE USED AS PART OF A FUNCTIONAL FIREARM, IF IT DOES NOT INCLUDE A PIECE OF MATERIAL THAT HAS:

(I) BEEN ALTERED IN SIZE OR EXTERNAL SHAPE SOLELY TO 12 FACILITATE TRANSPORTATION OR STORAGE; OR 13

(II) UNDERGONE AN ALTERATION IN CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.

**House Bill 638**  
**Opposition**

Exactly what is meant by §5-701 (J)(2) (I) and (II) is a question best left for the sponsor to explain.

§5-703 (A)(1) requires that even unfinished frames must have a serial number and other identifying information

Under the definitions in §5-701, even a raw casting or simple length of metal bar stock are treated as a firearm will be required to have a serial number. This means that foundries and steel mills will be required to become FFLs and serialize their raw materials.

However, during the final machining process, the outer surface will be removed and will it the serial number. Removal of a serial number from an unfinished frame or receiver is prohibited by §5-142 and by federal law for a firearm.

This bureaucratic nightmare will impact the 131 licensed firearm manufacturers currently identified by the ATF. It will not impact the criminals nor will it enhance public safety or reduce crime.

We request this Committee to return an unfavorable report on SB 624.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland



# 2A MARYLAND

January 10, 2019

## PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

### PIAs SENT TO:

**Anne Arundel County Police Department    Maryland State Police**  
**Baltimore City Police Department            Montgomery County Police Department**  
**Baltimore County Police Department        Prince George's County Police Department**

Dear:

Under the Maryland Public Information Act I hereby respectfully request the following firearms data and information for the years 2013 through 2018:

1. Firearms used in crime and recovered. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
2. Firearms used in crime which had serial numbers removed or otherwise obliterated. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
3. Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number (e.g. built from commercially produced 80% complete receivers) and which were produced by private individuals. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
4. Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number, which were produced from raw materials by private individuals. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
5. Firearms used in crime which were produced in whole in in part on a 3D printer of any description. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
6. Firearms used in crime which were produced on CNC machinery (other than by a licensed firearms manufacturer). Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
7. Firearms used in crimes by year and type, which were used by the registered owner during the commission of the crime. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

8. Firearms used in crimes by year and type, which were used by someone other than the registered owner during the commission of the crime. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
9. Firearms used in crimes by year and type listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle) which were stolen and subsequently returned to the lawful owner.
10. Firearms purchased in gun “buy back” operations between 2000 and 2018 inclusive. Listed by type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle) and which were reported by the lawful owner as stolen.
11. Firearms purchased in gun “buy back” operations between 2000 and 2018 inclusive, listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle) which were reported by the lawful owner as stolen, or determined to be stolen, and which were returned to the lawful owner.
12. Your Departmental Policy and Procedures for returning stolen and subsequently recovered firearms to the lawful owner of record.

For the purpose of this request, the data requested on firearms is for numbers only. No serial numbers or descriptive information beyond the type of firearms listed above is requested. Data in Excel electronic format, if possible, would be most helpful.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

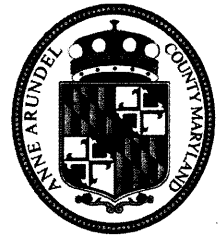
Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn

[jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org](mailto:jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org)



Anne Arundel County Police Department  
8495 Veterans Highway Millersville, Maryland 21108  
(410) 222-8050  
[www.aacounty.org/police](http://www.aacounty.org/police)



***Timothy J. Altomare***  
**Chief of Police**

January 23, 2019

John Josselyn  
2A Maryland

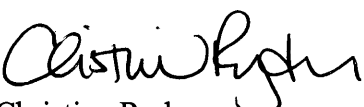
Dear Mr. Josselyn,

This letter is in response to your request dated January 11, 2019. Your request has been processed in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 4-101, et seq. (MPIA). Specifically, you have requested several types of information, all pertaining to firearms used in crimes and policy of return.

Upon search, the attached are all reports that we can produce pertaining to gun crime based on categorization and police report data. I have also enclosed our Department policies regarding release of firearms. Regarding all other listed items, data is not captured and/or indexed and is consequently not searchable on much of the very specific criteria you listed. Therefore, no records are responsive to those requests.

You may challenge any part of this response to your request by filing an action in the appropriate court of law pursuant to MPIA § 4-362. You may also contact the Public Access Ombudsman per MPIA § 4-1B-04.

Respectfully,

  
Christine Ryder  
Custodian of Records

enc.

*Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

**Anne Arundel County Police  
Violent Crime With Guns Involved  
1/1/2013 to 12/31/2018**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
01 Murder	6	10	13	8	5	14	56
02 Rape	2	5	1	3	4	1	16
03 Robbery	239	205	198	167	223	141	1,173
04 Assault	113	120	147	146	134	143	803
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>2,048</b>

**Anne Arundel County Police  
Stolen And Recovered Guns  
1/1/2013 to 12/31/2018**

	RCV	SAR	STN	Total
2013	18	12	220	250
2014	30	7	290	327
2015	13	20	241	274
2016	20	4	215	239
2017	35	8	167	210
2018	15	6	192	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,513</b>



Catherine E. Pugh  
Mayor

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police Commissioner

April 23, 2019

John H. Josselyn

Re: MPIA Request 19 0096

Dear Mr. Josselyn,

On January 11, 2019 you submitted a request for public records to the Baltimore Police Department's ("BPD") Document Compliance Unit, for the following information:

**Request #1.** Firearms used in crime and recovered. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Response:** BPD has no responsive record. The Evidence Control Unit ("ECU") and the Firearms Analysis Unit ("FAU") are the Custodian of Records that would possibly have the information that you are requesting. Both Custodians don't share a database that collectively have the information that you are requesting. The ECU receives items into BPD custody and manage the storage of the items and many times, when firearms are brought in, no crime is associated with them. The firearms would be categorize as found firearms, firearms held for safekeeping, etc. and after they are in ECU custody, a crime may be associated with it, but ECU does not typically make changes to the status once received. So given this information, in order to provide the information that you are requesting, the Custodians would have to do a manually search of firearms used in a crime. And with that being said BPD would be creating a record, the PIA does not impose an obligation on a custodian to create a document that is responsive to a request. *See* MPIA Manual 14<sup>th</sup> Ed., October 2015, 3-44 (citing *Yeager v. DEA*, 678 F.2d 315, 324 (D.C. Cir. 1982)) ("[City] has no obligation to *create* records to satisfy a[n] [M]PIA request."); *see also MacPhail v. Comptroller of Maryland*, 178 Md. App. 115, 119 (2008) (explaining that pertinent Federal Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") cases are "persuasive" authority in Maryland because the MPIA and the FOIA share "virtually identical" purposes.").

**Request #2.** Firearms used in crime which had serial numbers removed or otherwise obliterated. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).



**Response:** BPD has no responsive record. ECU would be the Custodian of Records for this information. But ECU doesn't always track the serial numbers from firearms for different reasons, such as unable to locate, misinterpretation from the manufacturer, unknown if the firearm is old, or it may just not have a serial number. Giving a list of firearms with obliterated serial numbers from their database would not be accurate and could present a shewed representation of factual information.

**Request #3.** Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number (e.g. built from commercially produced 80% complete receivers) and which were produced by private individuals. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Request #4.** Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number, which were produced from raw materials by private individuals. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Response #3 & #4:** BPD has no responsive record. ECU and the FAU would be the Custodian of Records for this information but this information is not currently tracked in either ECU or the FAU. Obtaining this information is unlikely to occur with a time consuming process that would require a review and hand count of all firearms received during the time period requested. Privately manufacturing/producing a firearm for personal use from an 80% lower or raw materials is not illegal. Sharing tools, building in groups, or providing completed lower receivers ("LR") is illegal since The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") considers that manufactured for sale or distribution. FAU does not keep statistics on firearms received that appear to be produced from 80% LR's raw materials. The ATF may be a more reliable source for this information as they maintain lists of licensed firearms manufacturers.

**Request #5:** Firearms used in crime which were produced in whole in part on a 3D printer of any description. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Request #6:** Firearms used in crime which were produced on CNC machinery (other than by licensed firearms manufacturer). Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Response #5 & #6:** BPD has no responsive record. ECU and the FAU doesn't track this information in their databases. The ATF may be a more reliable source for this information.

**Request #7:** Firearms used in crimes by year and type, which were used by the registered owner during the commission of the crime. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Request #8:** Firearms used in crimes by year and type, which were used by someone other than the registered owner during the commission of the crime. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Response #7 & #8:** BPD has no responsive record. This information is not currently tracked in either ECU or the FAU databases. FAU does not capture this information either because Firearms Examiners analyze the evidence (firearms, and discharged firearms evidence) to determine a source of common origin (i.e. did this bullet come from this firearm). Owner, Suspect, Victim information is not considered so it won't create a potential bias for criminal cases. This information would best be obtained from the State's Attorney's Office.

**Request # 9:** Firearms used in crimes by year and type listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle) which were stolen and subsequently returned to the lawful owner as stolen.

**Response:** BPD has no responsive records. ECU is the responsible party for conducting the background investigations and returning firearms to their rightful owners. When going back to Response #1, it is unknown how many of the firearms were involved in crimes as compared to those that were not involved in crimes. ECU maintains the custody of evidence as well as personal property not involved in a crime (safekeeping, found property, etc.). Firearms are returned when legally permissible.

**Request # 10:** Firearms purchased in gun "buy back" operations between 2013 and 2018 inclusive. Listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).

**Response:** BPD has no responsive records. There is no information readily available because ECU's database does not track information from "buyback" operations, this information is handled differently. In the December 2018 "buyback" the total number of firearms received was 1,860 and the breakdown was as follows (855 Handguns, 431 Shotguns, 510 Rifles and 64 Misc/Unknown. Firearms that were reported as stolen at the time of the buyback, as determined by personnel who were receiving the firearms at the buyback locations and ran the stolen check (0.59%) and the breakdown was as follows (7 Handguns, 2 Shotguns and 2 Rifles).

**Request # 11:** Firearms purchased in gun "buy back" operations between 2013 and 2018 inclusive, listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle) which were reported by the lawful owner as stolen, or determined to be stolen, and which were returned to the lawful owner.

**Response:** BPD has no responsive records This is an ongoing process and as of this date none have been returned to their lawful owner. During inventory for 1,860 firearms is a lengthy process, which is still ongoing. Information for the 2018 "buyback" will be contained in a final report when the entire operation is completed.

**Request #12:** BPD's Departmental Policy and Procedures for returning stolen and subsequently recovered firearms to the lawful owner of record.

Response: The Departmental Policy and Procedures for returning stolen and subsequently recovered firearms to the lawful owner of records is in a draft format and not completed. Once the draft is completed it will be released to the public.

You have the right under PIA § 4-1B-04 to contact the Public Access Ombudsman to mediate any dispute(s) you may have with this response. You may also, contest this response by filing a complaint for Judicial Review in Circuit Court pursuant to PIA § 4-362. Please refer to MPIA tracking # 19 0096 in any subsequent correspondence pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Abdul Saboor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being the most prominent.

Dana Abdul Saboor  
Document Compliance Unit  
Baltimore City Police Department



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**MARYLAND STATE POLICE**  
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD  
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899  
410-486-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-525-5555  
T D D: 410-486-0677



COLONEL  
WILLIAM M. PALLOZZI  
SUPERINTENDENT

January 29, 2019

Mr. John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland

RE: Maryland Public Information Act Request concerning Firearms Data and Information (#19-0090)

Dear Mr. Josselyn:

The Maryland State Police has received your request under the Public Information Act (Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article §§ 4-101 through 4-601) seeking records related to firearms data and information. We received your request on January 16, 2019.

This letter is to inform you that while the Maryland State Police maintains large volumes of records, but we would have to do a hand search for the data that requested. The information that we have would be incomplete as to firearms used in every crime for the years 2013 through 2018 because the Gun Center does not have data for every crime committed with a firearm. I have attached the policy requested in number 10 of your request letter – the policy and procedures for returning stolen and subsequently recovered firearms to the lawful owner of record.

I am required to provide you with notice of the remedies available for review pursuant to GP §4-203. You may seek judicial review of this decision in the appropriate Circuit Court in accordance with GP §4-362. You may also seek dispute resolution in accordance with GP §4-1B-04.

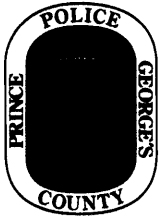
Having supplied a partial answer to you requested, I will close your request in our Public Information Act System.

Sincerely,

Rhea L. Harris  
Public Information Act Coordinator

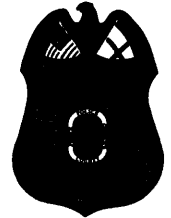
Attachments





# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

7600 BARLOWE ROAD  
PALMER PARK, MARYLAND 20785



ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HENRY P. STAWINSKI III  
CHIEF OF POLICE

January 25, 2019

Mr. John H. Josselyn.  
2A Maryland

Re: Request for Information / Firearms Data

Dear Mr. Josselyn:

I am in receipt of your January 11, 2019 letter requesting records from the Prince George's County Police Department for information regarding firearms data. Your request is made pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act ("MPIA").

Recently, the Prince George's County Government has received a large volume of MPIA requests. However, we will make every effort to process your request within thirty (30) days, as required by statute. Be advised that there are some requests that require specialized staffing and resources for processing. This, in turn, may cause response times to be somewhat longer than the normal thirty (30) days. See, Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions, Article 4-203(c)(2)(d).

Please note that pursuant to Maryland Code An., General Provisions, Article 4-203(c)(2), we are allowed to charge reasonable fees for time incurred to search, prepare and reproduce the documents that you have requested. At a later date, we will provide you with an estimated cost for your request. Before we release any documents to you, payment for the accumulated charges must be received. Without such payment, your request will be close without further action. See, Ireland v. Shearing, 417 Md. 401, 412, n. 8 (2010).

Several of your requests are not kept in an automated or electronic format and will be hard to produce but we will try to comply with as many requests as possible.

In closing, you may seek judicial review of this decision pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., General Provisions, Article 4-362. If you have any questions or need to contact me regarding this matter, I can be reached during normal business hours at (301) 772-4226.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Mitchell  
Associate County Attorney

**From:** [Ernest Reitz](#)  
**To:** [jhosselyn@2AMaryland.org](mailto:jhosselyn@2AMaryland.org)  
**Cc:** [Vickie Wash](#)  
**Subject:** Public Information Request, #NR19-39  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2019 12:57:47 PM  
**Attachments:** MPIA #NR19-39.docx  
Evidence Retention Field Manual.docx

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Hello Mr. Josselyn,

Thank you for your patience as we queried multiple departments within the Baltimore County Police Department in an attempt to fulfill your public information request. After speaking to representatives of our Firearm Interdiction Team, Evidence Management Unit, Forensic Services Section, and Crime Analysis Units we are unable to provide information for questions one (1) through eleven (11) of your request because that information is not tracked within our department. We do not have an existing database that captures the information you are seeking. Question twelve (12) or your inquiry is available. I have attached a copy of the BCPD Field Manual which governs the return of seized property (i.e.: firearms). Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Ernest M. Reitz, Esq.

Director, Legal Section

Baltimore County Police Department

700 East Joppa Road

Towson, Maryland 21286

(410) 887-2211

(410) 887-4933 (fax)

[ereitz@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:ereitz@baltimorecountymd.gov)



**CONNECT WITH BALTIMORE COUNTY**



[www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov)

<b>Request</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Notes</b>
(1)Firearms used in crime and recovered.	This data is not tracked.	FIT only tracks the guns their section comes into contact with, not all guns used in crime. Neither the Crime Analysis nor Evidence Management Units track this information.
(2)Firearms used in crime which had serial numbers removed or obliterated.	This data is not tracked.	"
(3)Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number and which were produced by private individuals.	This data is not tracked.	"
(4)Firearms used in crime which never had a serial number which were produced by raw materials by private individuals.	This data is not tracked.	"
(5)Firearms used in crime which were produced in whole or part on a 3D printer.	This data is not tracked.	"
(6)Firearms used in crime which were produced on CNC machinery.	This data is not tracked.	"
(7)Firearms used in crime by year and type, which were used by the registered owner during the commission of a crime.	This data is not tracked.	"
(8)Firearms used in crime by year and type which were used by someone other than the registered owner during the commission of a crime.	This data is not tracked.	"
(9)Firearms used in crimes by year and type, which were stolen and subsequently returned to the lawful owner.	This data is not tracked.	"
(10)Firearms purchased in gun 'buy back' operations between 2013 and 2018, inclusive. Listed by type and were reported by the lawful owner as stolen.	BCPD does not conduct a 'buy-back' program, nor do we track data from other jurisdiction 'buy-back' programs.	"
(11)Firearms purchased in gun 'buy back' operations between 2013 and 2018 inclusive. Listed by year and type which were reported by the lawful owner as stolen, or determined to be stolen, and which were returned to the lawful owner.	See response to #10 above.	"
(12)BCPD policy/procedure for returning stolen and subsequently recovered firearms to the lawful owner of record.	All stolen firearms are returned to lawful owner after a background check determines they are qualified.	See Field Manual Section 7-1.2



December 21, 2020

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

Anne Arundel County Police Department  
Baltimore County Police Department  
Baltimore Police Department

Howard County Police Department  
Montgomery County Police Department  
Prince George's County Police Department

Dear:

Under the Maryland Public Information Act, I hereby respectfully request the following firearms data and information for the years 2018 through 2020:

1. Number of firearms used in crime and subsequently recovered by your agency. Total numbers, by year and firearm type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
2. Number of firearms used in a crime and subsequently recovered by your agency which had serial numbers removed or otherwise obliterated. Total numbers listed by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
3. Number of firearms used in crime and subsequently recovered by your agency which never had a serial number (e.g. built from commercially produced 80% complete receivers) which were subsequently completed by a private individual. Total numbers by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
4. Number of firearms used in crime and subsequently recovered by your agency which never had a serial number, which were produced from raw materials by a private individual. Total numbers by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
5. Number of firearms used in crime and subsequently recovered by your agency which were produced in whole in in part on a 3D printer of any description. Total numbers by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
6. Number of firearms used in a crime by the legal registered owner and subsequently recovered by your agency. Total numbers by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).
7. Number of firearms used in crimes which were used by someone other than the legal registered owner and subsequently recovered by your agency Total numbers by year and type (rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, assault rifle).



8. The number of cases and the number of charges filed for the “Straw Purchase” of a regulated firearm. (Public Safety Articles §5-136 & §5-141)
9. The number of cases and the number of charges filed for the illegal transfer of a regulated firearm by private individuals. (Public Safety Article §5-124)
10. The number of cases and the number of charges filed for the possession of ammunition by a prohibited person. (Public Safety Articles §5-133 & §5-133.1)

For the purpose of this request, the data requested on firearms is for numbers only. No serial numbers or descriptive information beyond the type of firearms listed above is requested. Data in Excel electronic format, if possible, would be most helpful.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn

[jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org](mailto:jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org)

CALVIN BALL  
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS  
Chief of Police

**HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**  
3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Mr. John H. Josselyn  
[jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org](mailto:jhjosselyn@2AMaryland.org)

Dear Mr. Josselyn:

In response to your request under the Maryland Public Information Act §4-101 et. Seq. of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (PIA), for records relating to “firearms data and information for the years 2018 through 2020.” Please find below the responsive data for items number 1,2,3,8,9, and 10.

**Item 1 - Number of Incidents with Firearm**

	HANDGUN	RIFFLE	OTHER FIREARM	SHOTGUN	INCIDENTS
2018	121	9	12	3	145
2019	133	9	18	6	166
2020	141	7	15	6	169

**Item 2 - Serial Numbers Removed or Obliterated**

	HANDGUN	RIFFLE	OTHER FIREARM	SHOTGUN	TOTAL
2018	3	0	0	1	4
2019	3	0	0	0	3
2020	1	0	0	0	1

**Item 3 - Never Had Serial Number**

	HANDGUN	RIFFLE	OTHER FIREARM	SHOTGUN	TOTAL
2018	2	0	0	0	2
2019	8	3	0	0	11
2020	7	0	0	0	7

**Items 8 and 9 and 10 - Charges Filed**

	PS §5-136	PS §5-141	PS §5-124	PS §5-133	PS §5-133.1
2018	0	0	0	42	19
2019	0	0	0	71	24
2020	0	0	1	53	16

TELEPHONE: 410-313-3200  
FAX: 410-313-3295  
WWW.HOWARDCOUNTYMD.GOV  
HCPD@HOWARDCOUNTYMD.GOV



CALVIN BALL  
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS  
Chief of Police

**HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**  
3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Please be advised that a search of the Howard county Department of Police record management programs for item numbers 4 and 5 did not return any responsive records or data. Item numbers 6, and 7 will require a hand review of approximately two hundred eight (280) incident report. The estimated time it will take to review these reports is 9.5 hours.

Pursuant to the Act, you may be charged a reasonable fee for the search, preparation and reproduction of the requested records. By law, the first two (2) hours of labor costs are provided to you at no charge. The time expended complying with your request at this point is 2.5 hours. The review of the incident reports to obtain data for items 6, and 7 fee estimation is \$ 619.02. If you would like the Department to complete this research, and review of the incident reports to obtain the data requested in items 6 and 7, please submit a check or money order made payable to the Howard County Director of Finance for the total fee amount listed above, upon receipt the Department will begin the process of the review.

Please be advised that you have the right to judicial review of the denial of a part of a public record pursuant to Section §4-362 of the General Provisions Article by filing a petition in the Circuit Court for Howard County or in the Circuit Court in Maryland in which you reside or maintain a principal place of business. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-313-2280

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanne Upchurch'.

Jeanne Upchurch  
Custodian of Record  
Howard County Department of Police

JU/jc





Anne Arundel County Police Department  
8495 Veterans Highway Millersville, Maryland 21108  
(410) 222-8050  
[www.aacounty.org/police](http://www.aacounty.org/police)



**Timothy J. Altomare**  
Chief of Police

January 12, 2021

John Josselyn  
2A Maryland


Dear Mr. Josselyn,

This letter is in response to your request dated December 20, 2020. Your request has been processed in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 4-101, et seq. (MPIA). Specifically, you have requested several types of information, all pertaining to firearms used in crimes and policy of return.

Upon search, most data sets that you have requested pertaining to information that we either do not collect or do not index in a searchable manner. I have attached three reports: Violent Crime with Guns, Stolen and Recovered Guns\* and Count of Applied Selected Charges. Please note that the first two are YTD data for 2020. As we are not yet done validating police reports for that calendar year, the data is subject to change. Regarding the report of charges, please note that the data reflects what is in our system currently and does not include charges applied and later expunged by court order. Regarding all other listed items, no records are responsive to those requests. However, some unrelated data has been compiled by way of report review to provide certain elements for Anne Arundel County's Gun Violence Protection Task Force, which I have also included for reference should you be interested.

You may challenge any part of this response to your request by filing an action in the appropriate court of law pursuant to MPIA § 4-362. You may also contact the Public Access Ombudsman per MPIA § 4-1B-04.

Respectfully,

  
Christine Ryder  
Custodian of Records

enc.

**Anne Arundel County Police  
Violent Crime With Guns Involved  
1/1/2018 to 11/30/2020\*YTD 2020**

	2018	2019	2020	Total
01 Murder	13	12	10	35
02 Rape	1	2	2	5
03 Robbery	143	114	83	340
04 Assault	148	87	142	377
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>757</b>

**Stolen And Recovered Guns**  
**1/1/2018 to 12/31/2020\*YTD 2020**

	<b>RCV</b>	<b>SAR</b>	<b>STN</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2018</b>	15	6	193	214
<b>2019</b>	20	13	167	200
<b>2020</b>	18	4	123	145
<b>Total</b>	53	23	483	559

Key:

RCV = recovered

SAR = stolen and recovered

STN = stolen (no recovery)

**Count of Charges Applied  
Selected Codes**

**1/1/2018 to 12/31/2020**

*\*Number of unique charges are not necessarily unique cases/reports*

	<b>Total</b>
<b>10642</b> REG FIREARM-UNL SAL	7
<b>11105</b> REG FIREARM-ILL SALE	1
<b>11106</b> REG FIREARM:ILL POSS	214
<b>11609</b> FIREARM-POSS W/FEL CON	135
<b>12801</b> REG FIREARM:STN/SELL	61
<b>15230</b> FIREARM/SALE/DEALER	1
<b>15285</b> POSS FIREARM/AMMO/MI	132
<b>20239</b> FIREARMS-ACC BY MINR	7
<b>25210</b> REG FIREARM:S/W/O LI	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>559</b>

The codes listed above are charging codes.

See the following pages for an explanation of the codes.

Charging Codes Referenced in AACoPD Response  
(This data was not included with the AACoPD response.)

**PS 5-144(a)(1)**  
**MISDEMEANOR**  
**\$10,000.00-5 YEARS**  
**(Each violation is a separate crime.)**

**\*1\_0642\* \*\*REG FIREARM - UNLAWFUL SALE/TRANS\*\***  
...did knowingly participate in the illegal  
[sale/rental/transfer/purchase/possession/receipt] of a regulated  
firearm.

**7 offenses**

**Restrictions on Sale, Transfer and Possession of  
Regulated Firearms**  
**PS 5-134(b)**  
**MISDEMEANOR**  
**\$10,000.00 – 5 YEARS**

**\*1\_1105\* \*\*REG FIREARM-ILLEGL SALE/TRAN\*\***  
...did [sell/rent/loan/transfer] a regulated firearm to wit: \_\_\_\_  
(describe) to \_\_\_\_ (name) [knowing/having reasonable cause to  
believe] that the said person [had been convicted of a crime of  
violence/had been convicted of a violation classified as a felony  
in this state or any conspiracy to commit any crimes established  
by those sections/any violation classified as a misdemeanor in  
this state that carries a statutory penalty of more than two  
years/had been convicted of any violation as a common law  
offense where the person received a term of imprisonment of  
more than two years/is a fugitive from justice/is a habitual  
drunkard/is addicted to and is an habitual user of any controlled  
dangerous substance/was visibly under the influence of alcohol  
and drugs/was under 21 years of age and not authorized to  
possess a regulated firearm under PS 5-133(d)/was a participant  
in a "straw purchase" as defined in Section 5-136 of this  
article/is a participant in a "straw purchase as defined in Section  
5-136 of this article/is a respondent against whom a current non  
ex parte civil protective order has been entered under Section 4-  
506 of the Family Law Article/is less than 30 years of age at the  
time of the transaction and has been adjudicated delinquent by a  
juvenile court for committing a crime of violence/is less than 30  
years of age at the time of the transaction and has been  
adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for committing any  
violation classified as a felony in this state / is less than 30  
years of age at the time of the transaction and has been  
adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for committing any



Charging Codes Referenced in AACoPD Response  
(This data was not included with the AACoPD response.)

violation classified as a misdemeanor in this state that carries a statutory penalty of more than 2 years / subject to subsection (c-2) of this section, for a transaction under this subsection that is made on or after January 2002 has not completed a certified firearms safety training course/intended to use the regulated firearm to commit a crime/intended to use the regulated firearm to cause harm to another person].

**1 offense**

**PS 5-133(b)**

**MISDEMEANOR**

**\$10,000.00 - 5 YEARS**

**\*1\_1106\* \*\*REG FIREARM: ILLEGAL POSS\*\***

...did knowingly possess a regulated firearm [after being/being/being a person] \_\_\_\_\_ (select from list below.)

1. convicted of a disqualifying crime to wit: \_\_\_\_\_ (charge), a violation classified as [a felony in the state/a misdemeanor in the state that carries a statutory penalty of more than 2 years];
2. convicted of a violation classified as a common law crime and received a term of imprisonment of more than 2 years;
3. a fugitive from justice;
4. a habitual drunkard;
5. addicted to any controlled dangerous substance or is a habitual user;
6. who suffers from a mental disorder as defined in HG 10-101(f)(2) and has a history of violent behavior against the person or another;
7. who has been found incompetent to stand trial under CP 3-106;
8. that has been found not criminally responsible under CP 3-110
9. that has been voluntarily admitted for more than 30 consecutive days to a facility as defined in HG 10-101;
10. that has been involuntarily committed to a facility as defined in HG 10-101.
11. who is under the protection of a guardian appointed by a court under ET 13-201(c) or ET 13-705, except for cases in which the appointment of a guardian is solely a result of a physical disability.
12. who is a respondent against whom a:
  - i. a current non exparte civil protective order has been entered under FL 4-506; or
  - ii. an order for protection, as defined in FL 4-508.1, has been issued by a court of another state or a Native American tribe and in effect;
13. if under the age of 30 years at the time of possession, has been adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for an act that would be a disqualifying crime if committed by an adult.

NOTE: Penalty PS 5-143

NOTE: DO NOT use this charge if prior conviction is a crime of

Charging Codes Referenced in AACoPD Response  
(This data was not included with the AACoPD response.)

violence under PS 5-101(c), a crime listed under CR 5-602 – CR 5-605, or a crime listed under CR 5-612 – CR 5-614.

NOTE: See PS 5-133 and (f) for exceptions.

NOTE: “convicted of a disqualifying crime” does not include a PBJ for assault in the second degree, unless the crime was domestically related under CP 6-233. See PS 5-101 for definitions.

Rev. 10/1/2020

441.

**214 offenses**

**PS 5-133(c)**

**FELONY**

**15 YEARS**

**PRELIMINARY HEARING**

**\*1\_1609\* \*\*FIREARM-POSS-CRIM VIO/FEL CONV\*\***

...did possess a regulated firearm after having been convicted of: \_\_\_\_\_. (choose from below)

1. a crime of violence as defined in PS 5-101(c);
2. a crime of violence as defined in CR 14-101;
3. a violation of [5-602/5-603/5-604/5-605/5-612/5-613/5-614/5-621/5-622] of the Criminal Law Article]; or
4. \_\_\_\_\_(describe offense), an offense under the laws of [\_\_\_\_\_(state)/the United States] that would constitute a [crime/crime of violence] under \_\_\_\_\_(cite statute from options above), if committed in this state.

NOTE: A person convicted of this charge is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years, of which any part may not be suspended. Except as noted in CS 4-305, the defendant is not eligible for parole during the mandatory minimum sentence. See CR 5-133(c)(3) for court discretion of mandatory minimum sentence and required State’s Attorney notification. Each violation shall be considered a separate offense.

NOTE: See PS 5-133(e) and (f) for exceptions

**135 offenses**

**Sale, Transfer, etc., of Regulated Firearm**

**PS 5-138**

**PENALTY SEC. 5-144**

**MISDEMEANOR**

**\$10,000.00 - 5 YEARS**

**\*1\_2801\* \*\*REG FIREARM: STOLEN/SELL ETC.\*\***

...did [possess/sell/transfer/dispose of] a regulated firearm, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_ (state type of firearm) [knowing/having reasonable cause to believe] the same to have been stolen.

NOTE: This subtitle, does not include any antique or unserviceable firearms sold or transferred and/or held as curios or museum pieces.

**61 offenses**

**PS 5-123**

**PENALTY SEC. 5-144**

**MISDEMEANOR**

**\$10,000.00 - 5 YEARS**

**\*1\_5230\* \*\*FIREARM/SALE/DEALER\*\***

...did, being a regulated firearms dealer,[sell/rent/transfer] a regulated firearm, to wit: \_\_\_\_ (describe), to \_\_\_\_\_ (name), before the expiration of seven days from the time an application to purchase and transfer had been executed by the prospective purchaser and transferee, and the original copy forwarded by the prospective seller and transferor to the Secretary of the State Police

**1 offense**

**PS 5-133(d)**

**PENALTY SEC. 5-144**

**MISDEMEANOR**

**\$10,000.00 - 5 YEARS**

**\*1\_5285\* \*\*POSS OF FIREARM/MINOR\*\***

...did, being under 21 years of age, possess a regulated firearm to wit \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: See PS 5-133(d)(2) for exceptions.

**132 offenses**

**CR 4-104**  
**MISDEMEANOR**  
**\$1,000.00**

**\*2\_0239\* \*\*FIREARMS-ACCESS BY MINORS\*\***

...did store and leave a loaded firearm in a location where \_\_\_\_\_ (name of defendant) [knew/should have known] that an unsupervised minor under 16 years of age would gain access to the firearm.

NOTE: Firearm means pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, shortbarreled rifle, short-barreled shot gun or any firearm except antique firearms as defined by Art. 27, Sec. 36F.

"Minor" means an individual under the age of 16.

NOTE: Section does not apply if:

1. Minor's access supervised by person 18 years or older;
2. Minor's access obtained as result of unlawful entry;
3. Firearm in possession or control of law enforcement officer engaged in official duties;
4. Minor has certificate of firearm and hunter safety as set forth in section 10-301.1 of Natural Resources Article.

**7 offenses**

**PS 5-106**  
**PENALTY SEC. 5-144**  
**MISDEMEANOR**  
**\$10,000.00 - 5 YEARS**

**\*2\_5210\* \*\*REG FIREARM: SALE W/O LICENSE\*\***

...did engage in the business of [selling/renting/transferring] regulated firearms, without lawfully possessing a dealer's license issued by \_\_\_\_\_ (the Secretary of the Maryland State Police or his duly authorized agent).

NOTE: Each day on which a regulated firearm is unlawfully sold or offered for sale shall be considered a separate offense.

**1 offense**



## 2A Maryland

2A@2AMaryland.org

November 5, 2020

Colonel Woodrow Jones III, Superintendent  
Department of Maryland State Police  
1201 Reisterstown Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208

### PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Re: Report on "Ghost Guns" Confiscated in Maryland

Dear Colonel Jones:

A recent funding request (copy attached) from a local gun control advocacy organization alleges *"From January to September of this year, the Maryland State Police reported 22 ghost guns seized in Baltimore and 37 ghost guns seized in Montgomery County."*

I hereby respectfully request copies of any reports and/or data which your agency may have compiled or received from other law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to Baltimore City and Montgomery County directly or indirectly relating to the existence and/or seizure of so-called "Ghost Guns".

The term "Ghost Guns" has no legal definition, for purpose of this request, "Ghost Guns" are those firearms which have never been marked with a serial number and were confiscated from some person other than the person who actually manufactured the regulated part.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this request.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn

Attachment: Ghost Guns 10-05-2020.pdf

**From:** [Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Ghost Guns  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2020 9:01:56 AM

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We're hard at work preparing for The Maryland General Assembly's 2021 legislative session. While we aren't ready to share our entire plan yet, we did want to give you a sneak peek at one effort we are focused on.

Last week you may have seen the [article](#) in the Washington Post about the George Mason University student who pleaded guilty to selling ghost guns. This is an increasing problem in Maryland. From January to September of this year, the Maryland State Police reported 22 ghost guns seized in Baltimore and 37 ghost guns seized in Montgomery County.

These guns, free of serial numbers, are a problem as they are untraceable, easily diverted to the underground market and sold to individuals who would not be able to pass a background check. That's why we intend to return to Annapolis to pass legislation regulating the sale of ghost guns.

**Please consider [donating](#) so that we can support these efforts.**

Thanks as always for your continued support,



Karen Herren  
Legislative Director

## About Us

We're working to reduce the number of senseless deaths that occur at the hands of guns through education and legislative advocacy. Our efforts are designed to challenge the culture of violence, influence public policy, and encourage Marylanders to take action to make their state safer. And we are funded only by supporter contributions and small grants.

Please support our [work with a recurring monthly or one-time gift today.](#)

## Contact Us

Marylanders to Prevent  
Gun Violence  
2600 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21218  
[info@mdpgv.org](mailto:info@mdpgv.org)

[CONTRIBUTE](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**MARYLAND STATE POLICE**  
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD  
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899  
410-486-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-525-5555  
TDD: 410-486-0677



COLONEL  
WOODROW W. JONES III  
SUPERINTENDENT

November 17, 2020

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland

RE: PIA# 20-3412

Copies of any reports and data received from law enforcement agencies related to the existence and/or seizure of Ghost Guns (January to September 2020)

Dear Requester:

On November 13, 2020, the Maryland State Police received your request under the Public Information Act (Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article §§ 4-101 through 4-601) for the information captioned above.

I am writing to advise that it will take us more than 10 working days to produce the requested records. The delay is due to the time required to perform a thorough search of our records and to conduct the necessary review process. Once all of the records have been collected, they must be reviewed to determine whether they are, in whole or in part, exempt from disclosure under the Act. If any are to be withheld, our response will explain the reason. If there is a fee associated with the collection, processing and releasing of the requested information, you will be advised of same.

We believe that we will be able to respond to your request within 30 days of the date it was received. However, if we are able to complete your request more quickly, you will receive a response sooner.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your request.

Sincerely,

Mark Urbanik  
Public Information Act Coordinator





LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**MARYLAND STATE POLICE**  
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD  
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899  
410-486-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-525-5555  
TDD: 410-486-0677



COLONEL  
WOODROW W. JONES III  
SUPERINTENDENT

November 19, 2020

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland

RE: PIA 20-3412  
1138359363

Copies of any reports and data received from law enforcement agencies related to the existence and/or seizure of Ghost Guns (January to September 2020)

Dear Requester:

While processing your information request, I was advised that the data posted to Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence's (MDPGV) website, related to the numbers of Ghost Guns seized in Baltimore City (22) and Montgomery County (37), is inaccurate and was not reported by this Department. The numbers were allegedly provided by Montgomery County Assistant State's Attorney (ASA) Robert Hill. ASA Hill confirmed that the numbers were not provided by this Department nor the Baltimore Police Department.

In consideration of the above, are you still desirous of the requested information?

Sincerely,

Mark Urbanik  
PIA Coordinator



**2A Maryland**

2A@2AMaryland.org

December 2, 2020

Mr. Mark Urbanik  
PIA Coordinator  
Department of Maryland State Police  
1201 Reisterstown Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Re: PIA 20-3412 1138359363 / "Ghost Guns" Confiscated in Maryland 2020 YTD

Dear Mr. Urbanik:

Thank you for your response to my recent Public Information Act request.

We pride ourselves on basing our positions on complete and accurate data from reliable sources rather than data from special interest groups seeking to justify a political agenda.

Any information you can provide regarding the source(s), existence and/or proliferation of so-called "ghost guns" in Maryland as well as their actual use in criminal activity will be appreciated by this organization.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this request.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn

Attachment: MSP Letter 11-19-2020

**From:** [Mark Urbanik -State Police-](#)  
**To:** [2A@2amaryland.org](mailto:2A@2amaryland.org)  
**Subject:** PIA 20-3412  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:06:38 PM

---

RE: 20-3412  
Ghost Guns

Dear Requester,

After speaking to the custodian of records concerning your request, I was asked to reach out to see if you could be more specific with your search parameters. Before you respond, please note that the Gun Center's search of records will be a manual, protracted and costly process. Also, **the term "Ghost Gun" is not recognized by the unit** and therefore will not appear in any potential findings. As such, there is concern by the custodian that any data provided will be of a subjective nature and the credibility would be in question. Lastly, responsive records that concern a pending investigation or pending criminal charge are non-releasable pursuant to MD law.

Please advise me as to how you would like to proceed. In return, you will be provided with an estimated processing fee that will need to be paid before the work begins.

Sincerely,



**Mark Urbanik**  
Director, Management Analysis  
Maryland Department of State Police  
Headquarters / Planning & Research  
1201 Reisterstown Rd  
Pikesville, MD 21208  
[mark.urbanik1@maryland.gov](mailto:mark.urbanik1@maryland.gov)  
(410) 653-4253(O)  
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**From:** [John H. Josselyn](#)  
**To:** ["Mark Urbanik -State Police-"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PIA 20-3412  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:02:07 PM  
**Attachments:** image002.png

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Dear Mr. Urbanik,

Thank you for your email.

In my original request I attempted to define the colloquial term "Ghost Gun" and acknowledged that there is as yet no legal definition for firearms manufactured after 1968 and which have never been inscribed with a serial number by the manufacturer.

Under current federal law, a firearm receiver blank which is intended for resale is not required to be serialized until its state of completion exceeds 80% of the final form. Thus, an incomplete (less than 80% completion) receiver blank is not a firearm and can be sold on the open market and completed by the consumer (presuming the consumer is not a prohibited individual) without a serial number. However, the consumer cannot resell or transfer the now complete firearm to another party because it now meets the definition of a firearm and lacks a serial number and no legal means exists to assign a serial number. Further, reselling a firearm built by a private individual is also illegal because that individual would now become a manufacturer in the eyes of federal law.

The same basic principles apply if a home hobbyist creates a firearm frame from scratch using a 3D printer.

In order to better address your question and avoid prolonging the process, I need to know the following:

1. Does the Department of State Police (or any other state agency) keep records on firearms manufactured after 1968 and which never had a serial number, i.e. completely homemade or completed from a receiver blank which was sold to the consumer in less than 80% state of completion.
2. Does the Department of State Police (or any other state agency) keep records on firearms which were given a serial number by the manufacturer and the serial number has been removed, obliterated or otherwise altered to render it impossible to trace the firearm?

Best regards,

JHJ

**From:** [Mark Urbanik -State Police-](#)  
**To:** [John H. Josselyn](#)  
**Subject:** PIA 20-3412  
**Date:** Thursday, January 07, 2021 3:27:34 PM

---

RE: PIA 20-3412

Dear Mr. Josselyn,

In response to your original request regarding the request for reports and or data compiled or received from other law enforcement agencies I offer the following information in response: The Maryland State Police has not compiled any data or reports directly or indirectly related to the seizure of ghost guns.

MSP does, however, complete reports when a firearm is seized regardless of whether or not the serial number was removed or did not exist in the first place. The information from those reports is not readily compiled and would require a manual search of every record to determine if the firearm had a serial number or if it was a ghost gun. That cost was previously quoted at \$4,860.80. If you would like the MSP to attempt this manual search please let us know at your convenience.

Sincerely,



**Mark Urbanik**  
Director, Management Analysis  
Maryland Department of State Police  
Headquarters / Planning & Research  
1201 Reisterstown Rd  
Pikesville, MD 21208  
[mark.urbanik1@maryland.gov](mailto:mark.urbanik1@maryland.gov)  
(410) 653-4253(O)  
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