



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 387 Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms
The President
(By Request – Office of the Attorney General) and Senator Lee
(JPR Committee)

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 387 – Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms – This bill alters a certain definition of "firearm" to include a certain unfinished frame or receiver; prohibiting a person from purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an unfinished frame or receiver, or possessing a firearm on or after January 1, 2023, unless it is required by federal law to be, and has been, imprinted with a certain number in a certain manner; and requiring the Secretary of State Police to suspend or revoke a certain dealer's license if the dealer is charged with or convicted of a certain crime.

The Prince George's County Council, like the rest of nation, is concerned with the proliferation of what is known as "ghost guns." Our Police Chief, Malik Aziz, reported that our Officers recovered 264 of these weapons in 2020, a dramatic increase over the 27 ghost guns recovered in 2019, the most recent year that statistics are available. An analysis by the Washington Post reveals that since 2019, at least 13 homicides, 10 robberies and 20 aggravated assaults (many involving young people) perpetrated with ghost guns. On January 22nd, in Montgomery County, a 17-year-old was charged with shooting a fellow student with what is believed to be a ghost gun. In August of 2021, a 14-year-old boy in Germantown, armed with a ghost gun, opened fire while at an outdoor basketball court, killing one man and wounding three teenagers. The Council believes we must use every resource available to stop the spread of these dangerous, unregistered, untraceable weapons.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 387** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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