

GUN LEGISLATION FAQs

Question: What does the ordinance do?

- The proposed ordinance would prohibit the carrying (open or concealed), wearing, flourishing, use, or manufacturing of non-serialized firearms (including any non-serialized frame or receiver).

Question: What is a “ghost gun”?

- The term “ghost gun” describes homemade firearms that don’t have serial numbers or markings that would enable them to be tracked to their maker, seller, or original owner. These firearms may be referred to as “homemade” guns, “kit” guns, or privately made firearms (PMFs). “Ghost gun” is a relatively new term.

Question: What are the frames and receivers of the gun and why are they included?

- The frame or receiver brings together the trigger and other parts of the gun that are key to firing a bullet. Current federal law requires complete frames and receivers to have a serial number. Receivers that are not fully finished (80%ers) are not currently considered a firearm, not required to have a serial number, and do not require a background check to purchase. Today, an individual could purchase or make a frame or receiver, buy aftermarket parts like triggers and other components, and put all those parts together to make a gun that fires. This could be done without going through a background check.

Question: Are Ghost Guns a problem in Denver?

- Yes. The City is finding non-serialized firearms at crime scenes throughout the City. Additionally, cities across the nation are experiencing an increase in the number of non-serialized firearms recovered. The purpose of this ordinance is to stop the proliferation of these dangerous weapons before the problem gets worse.

Question: What other cities/states have regulated non-serialized gun?

- The following states have ghost gun legislation:
 - California
 - Connecticut
 - Delaware
 - Hawaii
 - Nevada
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania
 - Rhode Island
 - Virginia
 - Washington
- The following cities have ghost gun legislation:
 - Bridgeport, CT
 - Columbia, SC
 - Montgomery County, MD



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- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, DC

Question: Can someone still make their own gun?

- Yes, individuals could still manufacture their own guns. However, they would need to ensure that the frame or receiver of the weapon bears a serial number, regardless of whether the frame or receiver is “complete.”

Question: Does this ordinance conflict with federal/state law?

- No, the proposed ordinance would align with rules that have been proposed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Under state law, a local government may enact an ordinance prohibiting the possession of a firearm or firearm component unless expressly prohibited.

Question: What happens with all the non-serialized guns existing in Denver?

- These weapons will be illegal to possess in Denver. However, the ATF is proposing rules that would authorize the placement of serial numbers on these weapons by gunsmiths and licensed dealers.

Question: Does this ordinance impact areas outside of Denver?

- No.