

CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612
#LoveLife
REBECCA KAPLAN (510) 238-7008
Vice Mayor Fax: (510) 238-6910
atlarge@oaklandnet.com TDD: (510) 839-6451

Date: October 19, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Re: **Support of The Litigation Brought By San Francisco DA Chesa Boudin Against Ghost Gun Manufacturers**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

There has been an upward trend of gun violence in Oakland since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially over recent months. Illegal gun dealers and users are supplied by the ease of purchasing and assembly of ghost guns and their lack of traceability. This is not only happening in Oakland, but throughout the Bay Area and beyond. In an effort to combat this growing crisis, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin filed a lawsuit against "ghost gun" manufacturers. The lawsuit seeks a court order to bar the companies from shipping their products in California. The City of Oakland should publicly support this litigation and hold these "ghost gun" manufacturers accountable.

"Ghost guns" are unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home using kits. Once assembled, they look, feel, and function like a traditional gun. They are increasingly being sold, bought, and used in California, and, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), account for 30% of guns recovered in California in 2019. "Ghost Gun" manufacturers are not following gun safety regulations such as marking their product with a serial number, background checks, or requiring a user to have a license.

The entire system of gun safety laws and regulations are undermined by "ghost gun" manufacturing companies, who profit from causing violence and suffering in our community. In order to protect public safety, it is vitally important that such "ghost guns" be controlled and regulated as fully as other types of guns, as they are no less of a threat to the public.

It is important that the City of Oakland support the fight to stop the sale and distribution of these firearms. These unregulated guns are an increasing source of death and trauma in our City. I ask that you join me in supporting San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin's lawsuit against "ghost gun" manufacturers, to fight against the increasing violence and death that these guns cause.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Rebecca Kaplan".

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At Large

City Council
October 19, 2021
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