



**Council of the District of Columbia**

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**Janeese Lewis George**  
Councilmember, Ward 4

**Committee Member**

Human Services  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs  
Transportation and the Environment  
Special Committee, COVID-19 Recovery

March 19, 2021

Regina Lombardo  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
99 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Ms. Lombardo:

As the District of Columbia's Ward 4 Councilmember, I am writing to you to request additional action to address gun trafficking into the District, to request corresponding data related to gun trafficking, and to urge additional regulations preventing the spread of untraceable "ghost guns."

One of my priorities as Councilmember is to address the rise in gun violence in the District. Part of this increase is due to the preponderance of guns brought into the District illegally from surrounding jurisdictions. As the District works to address gun violence and implement appropriate gun penalties within our jurisdiction, we need our partners to support investigations and enforcement in surrounding jurisdictions and into interstate trafficking. **I urge ATF to prioritize investigations into interstate gun trafficking into the District of Columbia to prevent and disrupt this dangerous trend**, and to strengthen coordination with the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, and surrounding jurisdictions, particularly Virginia and those feeding into the regional Interstate-95 corridor. In addition to steps that ATF is taking to support investigations through the Crime Gun Intelligence Center, we hope to see ATF use its robust investigative arm to further address interstate gun trafficking at the federal level. We also hope to see ATF deepen its partnership with DC, Maryland, and Virginia forensic crime labs to share information on ballistic testing of spent bullets and cartridges to improve identification and tracking of where a gun has been previously used.

**To help inform my office's legislative and oversight engagement on this important topic, I respectfully request the following data from ATF:**

1. Please identify the top ten individual gun dealers (defined as the last lawful sellers) who have had crime guns traced to them. Please share whether this information has been relayed to District and local law enforcement. Please share whether ATF is currently engaged in any enhanced oversight or investigative activities related to these gun dealers.

2. Please share whether ATF is currently engaged in any long-term investigative action against individuals suspected of trafficking guns into DC from other states.
3. Please break down the data on crime guns recovered in D.C. from 2016-2020 to include assault weapons (as defined in [DC Code § 7-2501.01](#)) and high-capacity ammunition magazines. In your reporting, please distinguish whether these crime guns were tied to “possession of weapon” or “found firearm” categories or to violent crime categories.

This information will be valuable both to my partners in local law enforcement, my colleagues on the council, and to my office as we consider how best to strengthen the District’s response to gun trafficking and our partnership with ATF and other relevant federal partners.

Finally, I want request that ATF address the rising danger from untraceable firearms (or “ghost guns”) through rulemaking, such as amending the definition of “Firearm frame or receiver” to include these weapons. As you know, individuals are taking advantage of ATF’s regulatory omission that currently leaves the core components of firearms, including frames and receivers, unregulated. This regulatory omission has given rise to the rapid development and spread of ghost guns, and it makes these weapons impossible to track – resulting in both increased gun violence and hindered investigations. We have seen a significant increase in the number of ghost guns recovered in the District. **I urge ATF to issue a revised regulation to clarify that sellers and purchases of the core building blocks of firearms (including frames, receivers, and build-your-own firearm kits that include these components) are subject to the requirements of federal law.**

I appreciate the opportunity to share these priorities and requests with you, and I look forward to a productive working relationship together. I respectfully request that ATF provide, within twenty business days, the requested data and any other relevant information pertaining to this letter. Thank you in advance for your partnership and attention to this matter, and for your important work to promote public safety nationwide.

Sincerely,



Janeese Lewis George  
Ward 4 Councilmember

Cc: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Charles Allen, Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Christopher Geldart, Acting Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice  
Acting Chief Robert J. Contee, III, Metropolitan Police Department