

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Sheena Wright
First Deputy Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

I write to you regarding New York City's gun buyback programs and to request information relating to those initiatives to ensure that the programs do, in fact, remove guns from our streets.

A recent *New York Times* [investigation](#) revealed that dozens of cities across the United States have partnered with private companies that offer complimentary firearm destruction services to local law enforcement agencies. These companies are contracted to perform the destruction of firearms that were used in crimes, replaced due to police department equipment upgrades, or forfeited in buyback programs. However, while the intent of these programs is to reduce the circulation of guns in the community, many companies are only destroying certain serialized pieces, such as the receiver or frame of the firearm, and reselling the rest of the parts as kits or as individual pieces. This is fueling a secondary market whereby civilians use the remaining pieces of the forfeited firearms to assemble and create "ghost" guns, which are often undetectable and untraceable.

Alarming, many local leaders were not aware of this practice by firms with which they have contracts to dispose of firearms. Since New York City is a leader in gun safety programs, I have no doubt that you agree that this practice undermines the purpose and intent of gun buyback programs. In order to ensure that the City's gun buyback initiatives take the appropriate precautions to avoid allowing surrendered guns to resurface in our communities, I would like to request information on the following:

- How many gun buyback programs does the City of New York currently manage? Please include all programs through the New York City Police Department and county District Attorney offices.
- How many firearms have been surrendered in the last 5 years through these programs?
- How many of these firearms were unserialized or "ghost" guns?
- What private company or companies, if any, has the City contracted with to perform firearm destruction services?
- Does the City take any precautions to ensure that the firearms are in fact destroyed, and not sold in parts? If so, what are those precautions? If not, were you aware of this practice by contracting companies? Does the City track firearm parts that are resold?
- Are provisions related to the potential resale of firearm parts by these companies included in the contracts?

I applaud your commitment to public safety in New York. Considering the threat to that commitment posed by the unchecked proliferation of firearms, I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress