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QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING ARSENAL OF ILLEGAL “GHOST” GUNS

*Fifth Queens Ghost Gun Bust Since August;
25 Ghost Guns Recovered, Including Semi-Automatic Pistols and Assault Weapons*

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, joined by NYPD Chief of Intelligence Thomas Galati, announced today that Chaz McMillan, 20, has been charged with multiple counts of criminal possession of a weapon, criminal sale of a firearm and numerous other charges for allegedly having a stockpile of illegal weapons – including “ghost” guns, large capacity magazines and ammunition – in his home.

District Attorney Katz said, “This is the fifth seizure of ghost guns in Queens since August – and we will not stop. Using traditional investigative techniques, accurate intelligence gathering and analysis, we are continuing a relentless pursuit of those who think they can get away with bringing gun parts into our borough, assembling them and selling them here. Working in partnership with the NYPD, we are going to dismantle the ‘polymer pipeline’ – ‘polymer,’ because a crucial component of these ghost guns is made of a durable polymer plastic – and get these tools of death off our streets.”

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said, “When four people were shot outside a club in Upper Manhattan in September, the shooter used a ghost gun. When three people were shot outside a studio in midtown Manhattan in November, a ghost gun was involved. When we recently arrested a 17-year-old student at his Brooklyn high school, we recovered a ghost gun and \$30,000 in his backpack. This not a passing fad. These illegal weapons endanger our citizens, our police and our kids. Snapping together semi-automatic pistols and assault weapons from kits that are ordered from out of state is not some kind of hobby. We are seeing hundreds of ghost guns, ordered online and shipped directly to New York City. This is emerging, quickly, as a replacement supply chain for gun smugglers who traditionally relied on the ‘iron pipeline.’ When we see dozens of guns in this case – and component gun parts to make more – we can only surmise there is an intent to sell and distribute them. I want to commend Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz and her team working hand in hand with our Intelligence Bureau Major Case team on ghost gun cases to prevent these guns from hitting our streets.”

McMillan, of 162 St. in Fresh Meadows, was arraigned Wednesday night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Karen Gopee. The defendant is charged in a 125-count criminal complaint with criminal possession of a weapon in the first, second and third degree; criminal sale of a firearm in the third degree; criminal possession of a firearm; manufacture of weapons and dangerous instruments; unlawful possession of pistol or revolver ammunition; and other charges. Judge Gopee ordered the defendant to return to Court on December 13, 2021. If convicted, McMillan faces up to 25 years in prison.

Investigators were conducting on-going surveillance of the defendant who has allegedly been buying firearm parts online. They executed a search warrant early in the morning of Wednesday, December 8th, wherein the following firearms and other items were recovered:

- 25 ghost guns including: 19 semi-automatic pistols, 5 assault weapons, 1 semi-automatic shotgun
- 31 large capacity magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition
- Four additional complete polymer-based lower receivers
- Approximately 670 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, including 9mm, 10mm
- Several firearm-related components, parts, and equipment for assembling and manufacturing ghost guns
- Approximately two 10-ounce bars of silver and fifteen 1-ounce silver coins

DA Katz said defendant McMillan does not have a license to possess or own firearms in New York City.

Since August, there have been a total of five ghost gun takedowns in Queens – two in Richmond Hill, one in Hollis, one in Rosedale and one in Fresh Meadows – with six defendants charged.

Total Evidence Recovered to Date:

- 74 Total Firearms (Ghost Guns + Commercially manufactured)
- 51 Ghost Guns (31 Semi-automatic Handguns, 17 Assault Weapons, 2 Machine Guns, 1 semi-automatic Shotgun)
- 222 High-Capacity Magazines (Holds over 10 Rounds)
- 91 Firearm Lower Receivers
- 4 Rapid-Fire Modification Devices
- Approximately 33,470 Rounds of Ammunition

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Jason Robles and Breanna Knight of the DA's Detective Bureau, with the assistance of Lieutenant Alan Schwartz, Sergeant Joseph Falgiano, under the supervision of Assistant Chief Daniel O'Brien. Also taking part in the investigation was Assistant District Attorney Shanon LaCorte, Director of the District Attorney's Crime Strategies and Intelligence Unit.

Members of the NYPD Major Case Field Intelligence Team under Inspector Courtney Nilan, who partnered with the Queens District Attorney in the investigation are Sergeant Bogdan Tabor and Detectives Mike Billotto, Victor Cardona, John Schultz, Christopher Thomas and John Uske.

Assistant District Attorney Ajay Chheda, Section Chief in the DA's Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Jonathan Sennett, Bureau Chief, Michelle Goldstein, Senior Deputy Chief, Philip Anderson, Deputy Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Gerard Brave.

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Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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