



Monday, April 4th, 2022

The Honorable Bryan Cutler
Speaker of the House
139 Main Capitol Building
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Speaker Cutler,

We are writing to collectively demand that the Pennsylvania House of Representatives initiate a formal investigation into Attorney General Josh Shapiro and his Office for the manufacture and transfer of an un-serialized weapon for a New York resident in violation of both state and federal laws. *See* 18 U.S.C § 922(a)(5), 18 Pa. C.S. § 6111(c).

The Attorney General is our Commonwealth's elected Chief Law Enforcement Officer, and the Office of the Attorney General works under his authority and direction to effectuate justice on behalf of Pennsylvania and our citizens. The commission of any crime by the Attorney General or his agents is unacceptable. There is no “law enforcement exception” to justice and Mr. Shapiro and his agents must be held to the same standard that they hold our citizens to.

Earlier this year, NBC News Reporter Vaughn Hillyard, purchased two firearms build kits at the Oaks Gun Show, as part of a “hidden camera” investigation attempting to show the public how easy it was to manufacture a firearm from a kit. Ironically, Mr. Hillyard was apparently unable to finish the kit, and reached out to Attorney General Shapiro for assistance. Thereafter, Mr. Hillyard met up with “special agents from the AG's office, who agreed to use the kit [he] purchased from the show and build it into a ghost gun.” Once the kit was complete, the agents of the Attorney General gave Mr. Hillyard, a resident of New York State, a finished firearm. This investigation was broadcast on/about March 17th, 2022.

Mr. Shapiro and his office know this was illegal as he has prosecuted individuals for exactly these actions. Under federal law, it is illegal “for any person ... to transfer ... any firearm to any person ... who the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe does not reside in ... the State in which the transferor resides[.]” 18 U.S.C § 922(a)(5). Under Pennsylvania law, it is illegal for any person to “sell or transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person” without doing so through a firearms licensee. 18 Pa. C.S. § 6111(c).

Our nation is founded on a system of justice. Our Founders worked hard to cast off the tyranny of English nobility, and therefore created a system to ensure that equal justice applies to all. The legislature is an important part of that system, acting as a “check and balance” on the executive in our constitutional republic, particularly when a member of the executive or his agents act as lawbreakers.

It is the duty and responsibility of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to therefore investigate—and if necessary—hold our Attorney General accountable for any violations of the law or his oath of office that may have occurred.

We respectfully call on the Speaker of the House or Representatives to duly initiate a formal investigation into the actions of Attorney General Josh Shapiro and the Office of the Attorney General regarding the above matter; and that such investigation begin immediately; and be conducted with the full investigative authority and powers of the House pursuant to Rule 51 of General Operating Rules of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



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