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ALVIN L. BRAGG, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 26, 2025

Adun Ao
Chief Executive Officer
Shenzhen Creality 3D Technology Co., Ltd.
18F, JinXiuHongDu Building, Meilong Blvd.
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Dear Mr. Ao,

I am writing in my capacity as the Manhattan District Attorney in response to a growing and concerning number of “Ghost Guns” being manufactured using your company’s personal desktop 3D printers which have been seized by the New York City Police Department and my office. Privately made firearms (PMFs), commonly referred to as “Ghost Guns,” are firearms that have been completed, assembled, or produced by a person other than a licensed manufacturer and which do not have serial numbers.¹ These guns are easily 3D-printed based on downloadable gun part designs and detailed assembly guides found online, specifically on your company’s platform the “Creality Cloud.”

3D-printed guns have been and continue to be used to commit violence right here in Manhattan. In 2024, Luigi Mangione allegedly used a 3D-printed ghost gun and silencer to murder Brian Thompson,² making clear these weapons are just as effective and deadly as a traditional firearm. Furthermore, the Office has had many other cases over the past several years where 3D-printers and 3D-printed weapons have been recovered, many of which were manufactured in apartment buildings.³

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Privately Made Firearms (2023), <https://www.atfgov/firearms/privately-made-firearms>.

² D.A. Bragg Announces Murder Indictment Of Luigi Mangione (2024), <https://manhattanda.org/d-a-bragg-announces-murder-indictment-of-luigi-mangione/>

³ D.A. Bragg Announces Guilty Plea of Cliffie Thompson For Operating Ghost Gun Factory (2023) <https://manhattanda.org/d-a-bragg-announces-guilty-plea-of-cliffie-thompson-for-operating-ghost-gun-factory/>
D.A. Bragg Announces Guilty Plea of Cory Davis For Manufacturing Ghost Guns In An Upper East Side Apartment (2023) <https://manhattanda.org/d-a-bragg-announces-guilty-plea-of-cory-davis-for-manufacturing-ghost-guns-in-an-upper-east-side-apartment/>

Spanish 3D printing software company Print&GO recently developed “3D GUN’T,” a program that checks print jobs against a database of gun blueprints and uses A.I. to attempt to recognize the shapes of common gun parts. When a user opts into this program, it blocks prints of detected firearms.⁴

In order to protect your customers and our residents, and to provide additional roadblocks in the acquisition of illicit firearms, I urge that you implement similar security features as a default standard for all users of your product. Additionally, it is paramount that you work to remove weaponry from your company’s cloud services and explicitly ban the creation of illicit weapons in your company’s user agreement.

Once created, an individual has acquired a firearm without a background check that is difficult if not impossible to track. While my office, along with the NYPD, works to crack down on the deadly proliferation of Ghost Guns in New York City, your company must do its part. It is imperative that you take swift action to protect your customers and the communities they live in from violence and criminal activity by adopting commonsense security measures to deter the spread of illicit firearms both locally and across the United States.

In New York City, the NYPD reported a significant increase in ghost guns seized on the streets from 2020 to 2025. In 2018, 17 ghost guns were seized; in 2021, this increased to 150 ghost guns; in 2024, the number was 438.⁵ The number of 3D-printed ghost guns continues to increase, and our investigations with the NYPD into individuals who 3D-print illegal weapons have revealed that many of them utilize your printers. For instance, in 2023, our investigation found that an individual who was 3D-printing assault weapons and manufacturing illegal drugs utilized a Creality printer to print multiple firearms. In another instance, in 2023, an individual who threatened to kill his girlfriend was found to be manufacturing an arsenal of weapons in his apartment using a Creality printer (attached are images of some of the seized weapons and printers). Additionally, recent research has found that the vast majority of illegal 3D printed guns were created using Creality printers, specifically the Ender 3 series model.⁶

The number of ghost guns recovered at crime scenes began to decrease after a 2022 de facto federal ban on ghost gun assembly kits, but 3D printers create a growing risk of reversing this trend. The use of 3D printers within the United States has grown rapidly over the past few years

⁴ *The Ghost Gun Market’s Vanishing Act*, (The Trace 2025).

⁵ Mayor Adams Announces Removal of Over 1,000 Illegal Firearms From New York City Streets Since Beginning of 2025 (2025)

<https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/131-25/mayor-adams-removal-over-1-000-illegal-firearms-new-york-city-streets-since#/0>

⁶ *The emergence of 3D-printed firearms: An analysis of media and law enforcement reports*, Schaufelbühl S, Florquin N, Werner D, Delémont O. *Forensic Sci Int Synerg*. 2024 Mar 28;8:100464.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10998078/#sec3>

as they become more financially accessible and easier to use. 3D printers are a great tool for learning, innovation, and art, but your company currently provides no protection against the creation of illegal weapons. In fact, models for guns like “the Liberator” are available directly on your website and the “Creality Cloud.”⁷ Additionally, your company’s user agreement makes no mention of rules or restrictions on the creation of weapons.⁸

I am concerned about the troubling rise in access to unregulated weaponry, especially among individuals convicted of felonies⁹ and minors, because of insufficient security measures connected with your products and business policy decisions. There have been multiple reports of children acquiring ghost guns and shooting themselves by accident.¹⁰ In 2023, a NYC daycare was found to have 3D printed guns placed in an area accessible to young children.¹¹ The risk your product creates, as 3D printers are used more and more frequently in schools and homes, is unacceptable.

To mitigate that risk, I respectfully request a meeting with representatives from Creality and members of my office to discuss how your firm can implement commonsense safeguards, like the Print&GO “3D GUN’T” software, into your 3D printers. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office is committed to working with you to curb the creation of illegal ghost guns to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.
District Attorney

⁷ *Liberator 3d gun*, Creality Cloud, <https://www.crealitycloud.com/model-detail/6360119567eb2e25c001abd3?source=32>, Accessed March 17, 2025

⁸ *Terms of Service*, Creality, <https://www.creality3dofficial.com/pages/Terms-of-Service?srltid=AfmBOooJYbmXAxI7ATx6yb-zoS1AYYL3UjTIUFO0Ehu1xCjnhf71k2JP>, Accessed March 17, 2025

⁹ Individuals convicted of felonies in New York State have restricted access to legal firearms.

¹⁰ *The Ghost Gun Market's Vanishing Act*, (The Trace 2025), <https://www.thetrace.org/2025/01/ghost-guns-3d-healthcare-ceo-shooting/>

¹¹ *Ghost guns found in NYC day care after baby dies from suspected fentanyl exposure at another*, (NBC News), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ghost-guns-found-nyc-day-care-infant-dies-suspected-fentanyl-exposure-rcna117793>.



