



COUNTY OF FAIRFAX  
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

STEVE DESCANO  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

6/9/23

Contact: Laura Birnbaum, PIO  
571-396-1179

**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES ANDREW GORDIYENKO  
SENTENCED FOR KILLING FRIEND WITH GHOST GUN**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that a judge sentenced Andrew Gordiyenko, 21, to five years for shooting Matthew Chadwick with a ghost gun in 2021. The judge suspended two years of the sentence, so Gordiyenko will serve three years of active incarceration. He will also be on probation for two years after being released.

Gordiyenko and Chadwick, both of Vienna, were socializing with a third friend and imbibing alcohol into the early morning of June 10, 2021. This included "play-wrestling" over a gun, which discharged, shooting Chadwick in the head once. Chadwick, 21, died in the hospital the following day.

In January, Gordiyenko pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter and reckless use of a firearm.

"Matthew Chadwick's death is the result of a tragic incident that didn't need to end this way," said CA Descano. "When ghost gun manufacturers use loopholes to evade even the most basic gun control laws, they enable access to deadly weapons. All too often, I see how the proliferation of guns in the hands of young people results in unnecessary harm and death."

Ghost guns are weapons that can be assembled privately and are not traceable. The handgun in this case did not belong to Mr. Gordiyenko, but belonged to the third individual, whose house the three friends were at when the incident occurred. The polymer-80 gun was sold as a kit and assembled at home, thereby not requiring background checks or age verification. It does not have a serial number. CA Descano has spoken out repeatedly against the unique harm that ghost guns can cause and has supported legislation to make them illegal.

###