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The City Of Rochester Is Suing The Gun Industry As Violence Continues

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The city of Rochester on Wednesday sued a large number of companies in the firearms industry, alleging the companies are fueling violence in the city.

“The lawsuit seeks to hold manufacturers, makers, importers and distributors of firearms responsible for the illegal and unreasonable sale, manufacture, distribution, import and marketing of firearms,” the city said in a statement Tuesday. “The city is seeking compensatory and punitive damages, the establishment of a reduction fund, and reimbursement of attorneys’ fees.”

The city of Buffalo filed a similar lawsuit in the state Supreme Court on Tuesday, and Rochester is being assisted by the same law firm, Napoli Shkolnik PLLC.

The defendants, such as Beretta, Smith & Wesson, Glock, Remington and Bushmaster, and Ghost Gun companies such as Polymer 80 and Arm of Ally, have manufactured or distributed thousands of firearms recovered from crimes committed in the city of Rochester and the state of New York. York.” the statement read.

So-called “ghost guns” are untraceable and are usually sold in parts to be manufactured.

Rochester, like many other cities across the country, has seen a

significant increase in gun-related violence and homicides in recent years. What causes the wave may not be known for years, if ever. Among the reasons put forward by social services and criminal justice experts, as well as law enforcement, are the isolation of the pandemic and recent criminal justice measures. The latter, such as bail reform, are hot-button issues and the limited data available are used by all sides in the debate as evidence of their position.

The availability of firearms has also been highlighted, and that, combined with the state legislation that resulted from the violence, forms the basis of the lawsuits.

Last year, state lawmakers passed a “nuisance law” that would allow civil lawsuits to be filed against gun manufacturers and dealers. Typically, the firearms industry has had blanket immunity from many lawsuits, but this law, which has already been upheld in a federal court, seeks to circumvent that immunity.

A spate of mass killings has boosted public support for gun control measures, some polls show. Western New York Now has its own gruesome trauma, with the May massacre of 10 black people in a Buffalo supermarket, a mass shooting by a racist 18-year-old.

“Tackling gun violence is a top priority of my administration and I want to address this issue on all fronts,” said Rochester Mayor Malik Evans. “Violence prevention requires a multitude of strategies and a significant degree of collaboration. This is just the latest tactic I will use to stamp out gun violence in Rochester.”

In a statement to UKTN, one of the defendants, Bushmaster Firearms Industries, said: “We have not had the opportunity to fully assess the allegations at this time, but on the face of it, the verified allegations against Bushmaster Firearms Industries, Inc. false. Our counsel is currently reviewing the complaint and evaluating a way

forward to address both this lawsuit and the potentially defamatory claims against Bushmaster Firearms Industries, Inc.”

The firearms lawsuit could eventually reach the Supreme Court, as there are already federal opinions on laws such as New York’s “nuisance law.”

(This is a developing story. Go back to DemocratandChronicle.com for more information.)

This article originally appeared on Rochester Democrat and Chronicle: Rochester NY files lawsuit against gun industry as violence continues