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**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES ZACKARY BURKARD
WILL RECEIVE MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR KILLING TWO WITH GHOST GUN**

(Fairfax County, VA) — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that Zackary Burkard, 20, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing two teenagers with a ghost gun. He also received three years of post-release supervision.

Burkard shot and two teenagers during an altercation on April 25, 2021. Burkard had arrived at a residence in Springfield, VA following a social media dispute, which escalated into a fist fight between two of the six teenagers present. Eventually, Burkard shot the two victims with a ghost gun he was carrying, made after purchasing parts for the weapon online and constructing it himself.

A jury convicted him in August on two counts of voluntary manslaughter. The jury also recommended that he serve 10 years for each count, the maximum possible sentence for manslaughter.

"This is a tragic case in which there are no winners," said Descano. "I hope that with the case finally over, and Burkard receiving the maximum sentence, the victims' families and friends can begin the process of healing."

Ghost guns are weapons that can be assembled privately and are not traceable. CA Descano has spoken out repeatedly against the unique harm that ghost guns can play and supported a bill in the state legislature last year to make them illegal.

"Gun crimes are a scourge on our community, and I will keep fighting for stronger laws to address this crisis," Descano added. "Prosecutors need all the tools possible to go after these kinds of crimes."

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