



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

I write again to request assistance from the Department of Justice in combating the violent crime and drug and human trafficking that continue to plague the State of New Mexico.

Sadly, stories of horrific, violent crimes are becoming common. In fact, just in the month since I last wrote to you, four teenagers shot at a mobile home in Albuquerque and killed Galilea Samaniego, a five-year-old girl.¹ Another Albuquerque apartment was shot at in a drive-by three days later, resulting in the death of yet another victim.² Additionally, a cannabis farm in Estancia was recently discovered to have dozens of individuals on site who are believed to be victims of human trafficking.³ And today we learned that an 11 year old boy was killed and a woman critically injured a shooting that occurred just last night.⁴ These are just a few examples of the persistent violence occurring in our State.

As I have stated previously, both the nature and volume of these crimes require focused attention from the federal government. Allocating additional federal resources to New Mexico would not only benefit our State but also the region and the entire country, cutting off vast criminal networks at their source. Thus, I *again* request that the Department of Justice assign additional law enforcement agents

¹ Fallon Fischer, *Four Albuquerque teens face charges for drive-by shooting death of 5-year-old*, KRQE News (Aug. 21, 2023), <https://www.krqe.com/news/crime/four-albuquerque-teens-face-charges-for-drive-by-shooting-death-of-5-year-old/>.

² *Albuquerque police: 1 killed, 3 injured in apartment shooting*, KOB News (Aug. 17, 2023), <https://www.kob.com/new-mexico/ap-1-dead-2-injured-in-ne-albuquerque-shooting/>.


³ Laila Freeman, *New Mexico Attorney General's Office looks into cannabis farm for human trafficking allegations*, KRQE News (Aug. 16, 2023), <https://www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/new-mexico-attorney-generals-office-looks-into-cannabis-farm-for-human-trafficking-allegations/>.

⁴ Gino Gutierrez, *11-year-old boy shot and killed near Isotopes Park late Wednesday*, Albuquerque Journal (September 7, 2023), https://www.abqjournal.com/news/11-year-old-boy-shot-and-killed-near-isotopes-park-late-wednesday/article_97470260-4d31-11ee-9314-f396e5bc2584.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block

to New Mexico to assist in curbing the escalating violence and drug and human-trafficking activity that is ravaging our great State.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my Office if you wish to discuss this matter in greater detail. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

CC: Tom Perez, Senior Advisor, Assistant to the President, and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs