



September 2023

Requests for State Assistance to Combat Crime

The City of Albuquerque re-submitted its legislative priorities with several new additions

REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

Repeated asks:

- Stronger penalties for possessing firearms in drug distribution crimes.
- New charges for the random firing of a gun in public.
- New charges for carrying a firearm while intoxicated.
- Permanently establish and fund the New Mexico Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- Expand the Albuquerque Community Safety Department's Violence Intervention Program to all middle and high schools in Albuquerque to interrupt cycles of violence for young offenders and support victims of gun crimes.
- Close loopholes in Reg Flag law.

New asks:

- Explore the removal of the preemption on cities from addressing assault rifle proliferation.
- Add more federal prosecutors to New Mexico to address gun and drug-related offenses.
- Implement "Duke City Stat," involving additional jurisdictions in crime strategy and tracking, particularly concerning violent crime in Albuquerque, specifically the New Mexico State Police (NMSP).

BOLSTER COURTS TO CLOSE THE REVOLVING DOOR

Repeated asks:

- Permanent fix to the pre-trial detention system.
- Establishment of dedicated 'fentanyl court' staffed with retired judges if needed to prosecute dealers within 90 days and provide treatment for users upon arrest.
- Establishment of Fentanyl specific response team to educate social networks of victims and link to violence intervention programs.
- More jail time for retail theft offenders who brandish a gun during the commission of a crime. Firearm enhancements should be increased to 10 years and a requirement that the enhancement be fully imposed following a jury finding of fact.
- Enhance domestic violence penalties and breadth of laws.

New asks:

- Longer sentences for 2nd degree murder. With more than 200 suspects charged with murder, many offenders are pleading to 2nd degree murder, which only carries a 15-year sentence. The sentence would be increased to 20 years.

- Designate 2nd degree homicide by vehicle or great bodily harm by vehicle as a serious violent offense. Offenders would be required to serve 85% of their sentence.

REBUILD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Repeated asks:

- Expand addiction programs with emphasis on fentanyl treatment.
- Capital funding for facility improvements at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Fund peer support programs for crime victims.
- Incentivize new provider services.
- Expand treatment programs for those affected by mental/behavioral health problems.
- Establish immediate options for behavioral health and addiction services as an alternative to jail for some non-violent offenders.
- Career training in behavioral health for underserved youth.
- Contract to transport inmates to jail.
- Establish security branch to monitor prisoners while being cared for at UNM Hospital.
- Develop behavioral health training/career path programs.

New asks:

- Establish and fund a community victims ombudsman.

FIGHT CRIME

Repeated asks:

- State direct participation in warrant backlog initiative
- Enact stricter street racing penalties.
- Common sense regulations, similar to other states on assault weapons, large capacity magazines and bump stocks.
- Fix "asset forfeiture" law to increase funding for public education on narcotics and support drug trafficking investigations.
- Introduce "return to work" legislation to allow qualified/certified officers to return to duty.

New asks:

- Regular and reoccurring presence of New Mexico State Police in the Albuquerque Metro Area with a designated traffic unit to patrol state highways and dedicated narcotics and auto theft investigators.
- Enact enhanced criminal sentencing for road rage and violent crimes on the roadways.
- Prioritize enforcement efforts against drug trafficking and distribution networks.
- Continue to the referendum on juvenile diversion programs engaged in violent crime.

FUND CRIME FIGHTING TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Repeated asks:

- \$6.5 million helicopter and assistance from the State Police helicopter to patrol the Metro area when APD's primary helicopter is not flying.
- Fund community command posts on east and west sides of Albuquerque.
- \$10 million to expand gun detection technology.

- Allocate \$10 million for the creation of two additional police substations in high crime areas.

New asks:

- \$20 million expansion of the Real Time Crime Center, and \$10 million in new cameras to help coordinate law enforcement operations in the Metro region.
- Ensure adequate funding for Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) to quickly process persons taken into custody and provide for their constitutional detention.
- Increase funding for violent crime investigative units to expand investigative and apprehension resources. Consider expanding the Digital Investigation Team (DIT) and integrating drone technology.
- Increase speed detection devices to monitor and enforce speed limits throughout all state roads within the Metro area.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Repeated asks:

- Establish medical check protocols between UNM Hospital and MDC.
- Notify law enforcement when offenders are deemed incompetent by the courts.
- Require parole/probation officers to notify law enforcement and victims when offenders are released.
- Expand use of specialty courts such as mental health and homeless.

New asks:

- Ensure adequate funding for MDC to quickly process persons taken into custody and provide for their constitutional detention.
- Improvements to conservatorship programs for severely addicted.
- Work with Bernalillo County to identify and resolve bottlenecks in processing persons taken into custody for detention.
- Create a specialty court for auto theft.
- Crime in Albuquerque is primarily driven by repeat offenders who are career criminals. Under the NM habitual offenders act, mandate that prosecutors are utilizing habitual offender enhancements.
- Require mandatory reporting for mental health providers, requiring them to report individuals under their care to the National Instant Criminal Check system.