

July 12, 2024

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Re: July 18 Special Session**

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

We write to express our support for the upcoming special session. In general, it is urgently needed to help with challenges regarding gun violence, mental and behavioral health, housing and homelessness. As leaders entrusted with running public safety departments for the largest city in the state, we understand the challenges facing our communities. From youth gun violence and competency issues that fuel the revolving door, to pedestrian safety and the need for more collaboration across all levels of the criminal justice system, there is important work to be done. The special session provides a welcome opportunity to address these challenges and enhance the security and quality of life for all residents.

**Mayor of Albuquerque, Tim Keller:** Though Albuquerque has made strides in fighting crime and offering more services to reduce homelessness, we need support and system wide changes to make our city safer. This session is an important step toward making the changes we need to hold criminals accountable, get folks mental and behavioral services, and provide our community with the sense of security they deserve. As a former state Senator, I know that special sessions can be tough, and rarely are all the details ready in advance. I also learned that the constraints of our state Constitution and having only 60/30-day sessions leave little choice for urgent and important policymaking. I trust that your office, legislators and advocates can deliver helpful legislation for Albuquerque and all of New Mexico.

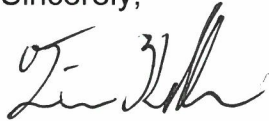
**APD Chief of Police Harold Medina:** Our officers are dedicated to serving and protecting our city, yet they face increasing risks and challenges in the field. Support from our partners is essential to providing them with the necessary tools, training, and technology to effectively combat crime and safeguard our community.

**AFR Fire Chief Emily Jaramillo:** Public safety extends beyond policing; it encompasses the readiness and resilience of our fire and emergency services. Addressing the mental health needs of individuals can reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation, and foster a safer environment for everyone, while also lessening the burden on EMTs and hospitals.

**Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Director Jodie Esquibel:** As a third branch of public safety, ACS is dedicated to a comprehensive safety strategy that integrates behavioral and mental health into our model. We know it is vital to offer services and to our most vulnerable populations to promote public health and wellness.

In conclusion, we look forward to working together during the special session to develop meaningful and effective solutions to enhance public safety. We stand ready to provide our insights on the important issues that will be discussed in Santa Fe.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor, City of Albuquerque



Chief Harold Medina  
Albuquerque Police Department



Chief Emily Jaramillo  
Albuquerque Fire Rescue



Jodie Esquibel  
Director, Albuquerque Community Safety