



City of Albuquerque Office of the Mayor

Timothy M. Keller | Mayor

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The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 13, 2025. I want to be clear that protecting the safety of the residents of Albuquerque is now, and has always been, my top concern. I hope that the Department of Justice will continue to partner with Albuquerque in that effort. But I also want to be clear that the Department has no basis to threaten the City or its residents, and the City will not give in to bullying. The City will respond, as necessary, to any action taken against it.

Your letter includes two requests. First, you asked that I confirm the City's commitment to complying with federal law. I can do so without hesitation. Second, you ask that I identify the initiative we are taking to "eliminate laws, policies, and practices that impeded federal immigration enforcement." None of the City's laws, policies or practices impede federal immigration enforcement. I therefore see no need to propose any initiatives.

Albuquerque is also one of the most culturally diverse cities in the country. Native American groups have inhabited the region for thousands of years – many centuries before Europeans reached the Americas. Spanish settlers began settling the area in the 1500s, followed later by Anglos seeking opportunities during the country's westward expansion. Albuquerque is also home to rich and thriving African-American and Asian-American communities, among others. The City has, throughout its history, welcomed immigrants.

It is in part due to this history that the City has adopted policies designed to protect the immigrants within the community. I stand by these policies. These policies are designed to, and have, made the City safer. These policies ensure that victims of crime feel that they can come forward, without fear of reprisal. And the results have been clear: the City has seen a marked decrease in crime. In just the past year, homicides are down 13%, while property crime is down 17%.

In your letter, you assert that the City's policies "thwart federal immigration enforcement to the detriment of the United States." This claim is baseless. Your letter does not include a single example of activities that have interfered with federal immigration enforcement, and I am not aware of any. I have made clear, repeatedly, that the immigrant-friendly policies do not limit legitimate efforts at law enforcement. If you commit a crime in Albuquerque, you will be held accountable, regardless of your immigration status.

I hope that, with this clarification, the threats against the City of Albuquerque will come to an end. I would note, however, that there is already an injunction preventing federal agencies from cutting off funding to the City. Another one is forthcoming. The City will continue to fight if any federal agency attempts to cut the City's funding or otherwise seeks to harm the City's interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Keller", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Timothy M. Keller
Mayor
City of Albuquerque