

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque Police Department



Harold J. Medina, Chief of Police



March 31, 2025

Albuquerque Police Department Request

To: Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham

From: Chief Harold Medina

Please find the attached Memorandum request assistance from the New Mexico National Guard to support our ongoing public safety efforts along the Central Avenue Corridor.

400 Roma NW

Albuquerque

New Mexico 87102

www.cabq.gov

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Request for New Mexico National Guard Personnel Assistance within Albuquerque

Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham,

To effectively combat crime in Bernalillo County, the Albuquerque Police Department (“APD”) needs every sworn officer to be on our streets making arrests, deterring would-be offenders, and protecting the public. The fentanyl epidemic, coupled with an increase in violent juvenile crime, presents a problem that can only be resolved through a consistent and visible presence of APD officers to Albuquerque’s citizens. Unfortunately, every arrest made by APD officers and every welfare check conducted by APD personnel on the Central Avenue corridor depletes resources necessary to achieve success. Simply put, Albuquerque needs its sworn officers on the streets and not transporting prisoners to MDC. The important tasks of providing a law enforcement presence at City transit facilities, at Metropolitan Court, or at the Sunport cannot be disregarded, yet those tasks require reallocating officers from our streets. Albuquerque needs its officers making arrests and stopping crime. Therefore, APD requests the immediate assistance of the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) to support our critical public safety efforts along the Central Avenue Corridor, and in other discrete areas as outlined in this request.

400 Roma NW

As you may know, we have made significant progress in reducing shootings and aggravated assaults along the Central Avenue Corridor through a comprehensive approach to public safety centered on proactive police activity. However, sustaining this momentum requires immediate reinforcement.

Albuquerque

New Mexico 87102

I believe we all agree that crime and fentanyl are impacting all of New Mexico, not just Albuquerque, as demonstrated by the incident in Las Cruces last week. Our major cities reflect this challenge for New Mexico. When we pool our resources, the impact on crime is dramatic. For example, during our most recent operation, we made 112 arrests and cleared 106 felony warrants. This level of success underscores the urgent need for continued and enhanced support.

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Simultaneously, the City of Albuquerque commits substantial non-law enforcement resources to the neighborhoods along the Central Corridor. The Albuquerque Community Safety Department leads community engagement efforts by providing services to those in need. Additionally, non-sworn personnel undertake public safety duties that free up officers for enforcement activities. Despite these efforts, the demand for resources continues to outpace availability. Immediate reinforcement is essential to sustain the progress we have achieved. This is a crucial time in our efforts in reducing violent crime and quality of life issues within Albuquerque and this emergency response by NMNG would assist in achieving these goals.

Thus, while significant improvements have been made in combatting crime in Albuquerque, the situation in our community continues to be an emergency and requires

additional resources. It is true that Albuquerque has seen a decrease in crime in certain categories, but the fentanyl crisis and crime crisis remains prevalent and is of such magnitude that requires resources from the State.

We envision the NMNG as a visible, trusted presence supporting non-law enforcement duties, akin to the Guard's role in responding to critical incidents nationwide. The community must see NMNG members not as a military force but as trained professionals dedicated to supporting and protecting residents.

The following areas require immediate NMNG assistance:

Critical Areas in Need of Support	Proposed NMNG Action Plan
Scene Security and Traffic Control at Critical Incidents	Providing security and managing traffic at crime scenes, accident sites, and other critical locations to free APD officers for investigative and enforcement duties. Immediate support is essential to maintaining rapid response capabilities.
Medical Assistance and Humanitarian Efforts Along Central Avenue:	NMNG's prompt support is vital in addressing medical emergencies, providing immediate first aid, and assisting emergency personnel. Guardsmen can distribute food, water, and essential supplies to individuals experiencing homelessness and vulnerable populations. Their presence is crucial for de-escalating potentially volatile situations and connecting individuals with appropriate services.
Prisoner Transport Unit (PTU):	The PTU manages the detention and transport of individuals arrested by APD and surrounding jurisdictions. NMNG personnel could assist in intake and transport processes to the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), allowing PTU personnel to deploy mobile transport units and retrieve prisoners directly from officers. This would free officers for enforcement operations and reduce the need for overtime. This would allow us to respond to more emergency-related calls and reduce response times.

<p>Transit Security:</p>	<p>APD oversees the Transit Security Division, which includes unarmed personnel monitoring transit routes. NMNG personnel would significantly bolster transit security, increasing visibility and deterring criminal activity. Their immediate presence is critical to ensuring the safety of passengers and employees while allowing APD to focus on higher-priority incidents.</p>
<p>Metro Court Security:</p>	<p>APD employs sworn personnel for Metro Court security. NMNG support would supplement non-sworn personnel, enabling sworn officers to focus on patrol duties. NMNG personnel could assist with remand procedures, courtroom security, and public area monitoring, reducing overtime and enhancing overall court security.</p>
<p>Aviation:</p>	<p>APD oversees law enforcement functions at the Albuquerque International Sunport, complying with TSA regulations. Due to personnel shortages, APD often reallocates officers or relies on overtime. NMNG personnel could support airport security by monitoring restricted areas, securing perimeters, and assisting with non-critical patrol functions. Their immediate deployment would enhance public safety and reduce resource strain.</p>
<p>Shield Unit:</p>	<p>NMNG personnel could improve the efficiency of APD's case preparation by organizing files, retrieving documents, and compiling reports for the District Attorney's office. This support would expedite judicial processes, allowing officers to prioritize active investigations.</p>
<p>APD Drone Program (Drones as First Responders):</p>	<p>Drones enhance situational awareness and response times. NMNG personnel could assist in operating and monitoring drone deployments, providing real-time footage of incidents, locating suspects or missing persons, and assessing potentially dangerous situations. This capability is critical for efficient resource allocation and officer safety.</p>

Deploying NMNG personnel in these roles would enable APD to reallocate resources more effectively, sustaining continuous enforcement and essential services 24 hours a day. This reinforcement is critical to improving public safety and the quality of life for Albuquerque residents.

The Albuquerque Police Department remains steadfast in its commitment to public safety and fostering a secure environment for all residents and visitors. By integrating NMNG personnel into these critical support roles, APD can enhance officer presence in

high-crime areas and improve overall public safety within the Central Avenue Corridor and beyond. This partnership is vital for efficient incident response and reinforcing community trust through visible and professional engagement.

We respectfully and urgently urge your prompt consideration of this request. The time to act is now. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on the implementation of this initiative. Thank you for your leadership and unwavering support in our shared mission to enhance public safety in Albuquerque and across New Mexico.