



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

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City Councilor Responds to Attorney General's Threat to Withhold Federal Public Safety Funds

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Albuquerque - Earlier today, the US Department of Justice issued new rules for the proposed Public Safety Partnership Program. Those rules required eligible cities, including Albuquerque, to certify that they would allow federal immigration agents access to detention facilities if they wanted to participate.

City Councilor Pat Davis responded:

Public safety should not be conditional on politics and we will not be bullied into endorsing a discriminatory policy our community does not support.

That said, the City of Albuquerque has not applied to participate in the program. Even if we did, the new rules would not apply to Albuquerque because our local detention center is managed by Bernalillo County.

I have real questions about how the DOJ has managed "selective enforcement" programs here in the past. [A recent ATF initiative](#) imported paid informants to Albuquerque in a program a Federal judge determined was designed to target minorities. It targeted homeless drug addicts, and a disproportionate number of African-American men, for federal prosecution for minor drug offenses, or talked them into selling rusty firearms to undercover officers to add gun charges where there is no evidence they were involved in these before. And Albuquerque residents know that once the press conference ended, crime didn't stop.

Each year, the City Council approves more than [\\$4 million](#) in federal grants and programs to help our local officers take the lead in targeting gangs and drug dealers and to help investigators track down violent offenders who use guns. And we've increased our federal grant applications expanding our local capacity to eliminate our rape kit backlogs and provide enhanced DNA testing locally.

Those existing programs and partnerships are not in danger.

In April, a federal judge issued a nationwide order prohibiting President Trump and the Attorney General from withholding those funds from cities based on immigration policies.

Our police department should pursue grants to hire more community policing officers and I'll sponsor any grant or program to do that any day.

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Pat Davis is an Albuquerque City Councilor representing District 6. He serves as Chair of the Finance & Government Operations Committee. He is a former police officer and has sponsored and passed several pieces of legislation to fund new tools and programs to for gun crimes, sex crimes and property crime investigations.