

CRIME IMPACT PROGRAM

We are in the middle of a crime wave that is destroying our City. My approach to our crime epidemic is going to be methodical and aggressive. My opponents think by going on a ride along or watching a couple of episodes of “Blue Bloods,” they have now become public safety experts. We can’t risk our safety to amateurs at this crucial moment in time. As your Mayor, I have the experience and knowledge to quickly and effectively attack Albuquerque’s epidemic crime problem. I personally have fought crime as a Police Officer, Detective and Chief of Staff for the Attorney General’s Office for 28 years. I believe if you can’t solve the crime problem, you shouldn't be Mayor.

First of all, I will create a panel of former law enforcement Chiefs and experts in the field of public safety to assist me in selecting our next Police Chief and bring in an interim Chief while the selection is being made. I know from experience the type of Chief that Albuquerque needs and the skills he or she must possess to lead our department effectively. The next Chief should understand our unique culture and possess a proven history of results, leadership and integrity. Our next Police Chief will be available to the media, the public and other law enforcement agencies. The Chief will be the public spokesperson for the Police Department. There will be no political hires in my administration. I want to remove politics out of our policing and focus on making Albuquerque safe. I worked for five different mayors, seven different police chiefs, and for the top law enforcement officer of the state. My experience will help me select a Police Chief that will serve the needs of our City.

As the next Mayor of Albuquerque, I will work closely with my Police Chief and make recommendations, drawn from my past law enforcement experience, to help guide well informed decisions and policy for public safety in our City. Day one, I will be working on efforts to combat Albuquerque’s crime problem. I have drafted several comprehensive plans that will be Passed on to the Police Chief in week one of my administration. These drafts will be passed on to our new

Police Chief so our crime problems can be addressed rapidly and he or she can evaluate for implementation.

Next, we must grow our Police Department to the budgeted 1000 officers and then evaluate if more are needed. I also believe more officers are needed and will continue our recruiting and training process until we have achieved an optimum number of officers needed for a city our size to utilize a Community Policing Model. The new leadership of the Police Department will motivate our police officers to be the hard-working, dedicated, professionals that our community expects, deserves and desperately needs.

I will incorporate “Problem Oriented Policing” to solve our crime issues. We are #1 in the nation for auto thefts. In the last four-years, armed robbery has increased 84%. We have had 50 homicides this year to date. Statistics show criminal behavior escalates with no intervention. To solve the crime problems, you must have working knowledge of how and why crimes are committed and then how to address the problem in order to resolve it. As the next Mayor of Albuquerque, I will work closely with our criminal justice system and make recommendations, drawn from my past law enforcement experience, to help guide well informed decisions and policy for public safety in our City.

I am asked daily, “How will you fix the crime problem in our City?” Collaboration is key. The Mayor's office and the District Attorney's Office must work hand-in-glove. We cannot allow investigated cases and arrests to be dropped and not prosecuted. I will work to find solutions to the prosecution obstacles. If it is a lack of funding, then we will find the funds to fully prosecute our cases presented to the District Attorney. We must get criminals in front of judges and get convictions in order to control our criminal element. We must stop the revolving door arrest scenarios and the catch and release operation that we currently now have.

I will simultaneously address the mental health and addiction issues in our City. We need to wisely and efficiently build a new Mental Health/Addiction

Treatment Center utilizing existing monies generated by the Bernalillo County GRT. Our stakeholders in this area must work with law enforcement and the courts to identify drug addicted criminals and have a court mandated option that they receive effective drug treatment so they can break the drug habit that drives much of the criminal behavior. I believe a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEADS) Program could be implemented into APD to establish an effective referral program to deal with drug addiction in our city. This will apply to more minor crimes and will have accountability measures in place to ensure restitution for victims and proper court adjudications. The LEADS program will be a collaborative effort with the District Attorney's Office. We are dealing with individuals who are addicted to methamphetamine and heroin. These drugs are coming from Mexico and are considered more addictive than the drugs that used to cross over into our country. These drugs contain fentanyl, smuggled in from China and create difficulties in the area of treatment. Longer treatment periods are needed and relapse often occurs. The police and the courts should be incorporated into contributing to this process so all can collaboratively provide solutions to the mental health and addiction problems in our community, since our officers and courts are dealing with this issue on a daily basis. I will work with our congressional delegation to ensure federal funding flows into our city to fight drug crimes associated to methamphetamine and heroin.

Many parents in our City have lost their children to heroin and opioid overdoses and are now trying to have an impact in the area of prevention of overdose deaths and should be included in working on this tough problem in our city. Distribution of Narcan and other drugs, that can reverse an overdose, should be readily available to continue to save lives and start individuals on the road to recovery.

As mayor of Albuquerque, I will organize positive crime prevention tools like supporting our youth to achieve, and to not be drawn to gangs and drugs, that plague our city. I will work closely with the Albuquerque Public School System, the Middle Schools, and High Schools to work on motivating our young people

to look to their futures. We need more mentorship in our community and partnerships with the business community and organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs who have a proven record of success, so our children can learn what their gifts are and what their passion is. We also need more opportunities for vocational training. I will incorporate a GED Center in our Multigenerational Community Centers to help individuals obtain their GED. I will partner with UNM and CNM and start recruitment early and partner with these educational institutions, and even the private educational schools, to find the talent early for our business community. We should be connecting our young people with our business community leaders and encourage more internship programs. We need to work with APS and focus on adding more technology classes in both high school and college and strategically align our City as being an innovative city that recruits and retains talent from our educational institutions. We must invest in our kids, and grow a strong, talented, and innovative and workforce to truly become the City we know we can be.

I will create a robust District Attorney Liaison Unit to ensure that the Police Department provides fully investigated cases, including all lab work and crime lab analysis necessary to obtain prosecutions, as well as getting feedback from the courts and District Attorney's Office on how to achieve better results on all cases. I will create a check and balance system for review so all cases sent to the District Attorney's office will be tracked to ensure that they are fully supported with police testimony, evidence and supplemental investigation. This District Attorney Liaison Unit will track cases, court actions, release of defendants by judges so we can make recommendations for changes and improvements in real time. This unit will also ensure our officers and detectives get up to date information from the District Attorney's office on the cases they have submitted so our officers know what has happened to their hard work after sending it over to the DA's office.

In my City Attorney's Office, I will create a Legislative Liaison Team who will work on legislative changes we need to help our City prosper. I plan on being very active in this area because the Mayor's office works and collaborates with

so many state agencies such as the District Attorney's Office. We must ensure our District Attorney's Office is funded properly to handle the criminal cases that are being generated by our law enforcement officers. I also envision this team working with our educational systems to achieve previously mentioned goals.

We must also include the community as part of the solution. Having active Neighborhood Watch Programs and quarterly neighborhood events will impact crime in our city. NWP is considered one of the most effective crime prevention programs in the nation. Using technology like the Nextdoor Application will enhance the program to function even better as neighbors can send out alerts and information in a quick and easy way.

All Crime Roads Lead to Auto Theft

My Crime Impact Program starts with Auto Theft as a priority because Albuquerque is #1 in the nation for auto theft. Auto theft in the Albuquerque Metro Area is a clear example that our law enforcement must change the way they are addressing the crime of auto theft and work together in a regional effort to solve this problem.

I will be a Mayor that is a hands-on leader. I will work collaboratively with other mayors in the adjoining communities to combat crime. I will share my anti-auto theft action plan and my police crime analysis information with others in order to reduce auto thefts. The City of Albuquerque Crime Analysis and Prevention Team will work with all the local Chiefs and Sheriffs to implement action items and anti-auto theft plans.

Auto theft has no boundaries. The same auto theft thieves are being arrested over and over throughout the metro area. This must stop! My plan is heavy on information sharing and joint cooperation by all the regional law enforcement

auto theft units and further collaboration with the 2nd and 13th Judicial District Attorney's offices.

I personally have fought this crime as an Auto Theft Detective. My experience will enable me as Mayor to clearly see how effective the plan is so we can evaluate for changes. I have sat with victims of auto theft as they cry and wonder how they are going to pick up their kids from school and get to work the next day. I can say that of all the property crimes that thieves commit on a daily basis in Albuquerque, I despise this one the most. As a community, we don't have the time for a new Mayor to make costly mistakes concerning crime. I am the right candidate, at the right time, for this problem.

The first step is to look at the data and understand why our cars are being stolen. Not all auto thieves are taking your car for the same reason. Actually, there are multiple types of criminal groups that are targeting your car.

For example:

1. Offenders that steal your car to utilize it to commit other crimes. This group of criminals regularly operates locally and typically commits home burglaries, armed robberies, and shoplifting. They need your car so there is no direct link to them and they can abandon your car quickly if the police try to apprehend them. Often times when your vehicle is recovered, stolen and personal items are left behind.

2. Chop shop auto thieves who want your car for the parts to resell. These stolen cars end up in backyards, wrecking yards, surrounding cities and other out of the way locations. The parts are re-sold on line, exported to other states, or used by the thieves themselves.

3. Albuquerque is only four hours from Mexico. Since Albuquerque is in a border state, Mexico is a location where some of our stolen vehicles are taken. These

thieves are part of drug cartels and smugglers who use the cars to transport money, people and stolen property along with the vehicle itself into and out of Mexico. Vehicle Identification numbers are often changed making it more difficult for recovery. If your car/truck is stolen by the drug cartels, chances are it will never be recovered.

4. Joy ride/personal transportation. These opportunistic thieves are everywhere in Albuquerque and if you turn your back with your car door open, they will take advantage of the moment and take your car. These are the same people who steal cars warming up in driveways and at gas stations. These are the same people who are committing burglaries, theft and robberies in our City.

5. Addicts often trade their car in exchange for drugs then report it stolen. These types of reports bog down the system and the victim usually will sign a waiver of prosecution in order to clear their drug dealer of any wrong doing. More information exchange is needed with our narcotics units and DEA to curb this type of reporting by attacking two individual crime problems.

6. Insurance fraud schemes. These thieves come from a variety of backgrounds but create huge losses for the insurance industry that are very often made-up for with higher rates. It will be important for us to work closely with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Having one of their agents working directly with our Auto Theft Unit will be crucial for information gathering and sharing. NICB maintains a data base of stolen vehicles even after they have been removed from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Overcoming Albuquerque's auto theft problem starts with creating working relationships and teamwork. I have personally investigated all of the above groups of auto thieves. To solve this problem, you must have working knowledge of how and why crimes are committed and then how to address the problem in order to resolve it.

My Auto Theft Action Plan centers around two investigatory teams: a Regional Auto Theft Unit and a Local Auto Theft Unit to work in a coordinated effort to address this crime.

As the Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, I worked with one of our United States Congressmen's office to have the United States Border Patrol check all U.S. outbound vehicles into Mexico, especially those during the early morning hours, to determine if they are stolen. I recommended that USBP focus on determining if the driver was the same as the registered owner and through VIN inspection. The reason is because many vehicles can be driven to the boarder in four hours. Often times, the vehicle is across the border before the victim reports the vehicle is missing. I received feedback that this was a very successful approach and I will ensure we are working with our border patrol agents for successful recovery of stolen vehicles.

APD Albuquerque Regional Auto Theft Team

The Albuquerque Police Chief will create a new Albuquerque Regional Auto Theft Team (ARATT). The Team will have members assigned from all the Metro Law enforcement agencies who wish to participate, including the District Attorney's offices. This team will be tasked with investigating all auto thefts that have a cross jurisdiction connection. If a vehicle is stolen in Albuquerque, but is recovered outside of the city limit, the ARATT team will take investigatory responsibility for that investigation. That includes all comprehensive audits of auto salvage yards, used auto dealers, auto auctions and stolen vehicles recovered outside of the metro area. The team will regularly review and investigate suspicious internet sales of cars to stop a potential avenue to resell stolen cars and car parts.

The ARATT team will be pro-active and use the bait cars which can be provided by our auto insurance companies. This has been done in the past and is a very effect way to be pro-active in the community.

The ARATT team will provide the criminal intelligence and information to all the metropolitan area law enforcement. This team will reach into areas where currently auto thieves operate without worry of police investigation.

A regional cooperative approach provides the extra layer of investigative ability that our current Albuquerque Auto Theft Unit doesn't currently have available and that is a must for controlling this crime. It is an added benefit for adjoining cities as well.

APD Auto Theft Unit

The Albuquerque Auto Theft Unit (ATU) will be the 2nd team investigating auto theft in Albuquerque. The ATU will focus on all auto thefts within the city limits and will be responsible for all investigations and will link local auto thieves to additional local crimes such as home burglaries and armed robberies. The ATU will work closely with the Albuquerque Police Burglary and Robbery units when stolen cars are used in these crimes.

The ATU will conduct in-depth interviews with all in-custody auto theft offenders on a 24 hour a day basis (on-call). Auto theft offenders have a wealth of information on co-conspirators and associate offenders involved in other criminal activity. Therefore, it is imperative that comprehensive interviews be completed before suspects are transported to jail and charged. Information gathered from these interviews will be shared with ARATT and appropriate agencies so all the law enforcement jurisdictions are kept up to date.

Additional Initiatives

Public participation plays a role as part of the solution to the auto theft problem. Posting of weekly crime prevention and education strategies for the public and instituting a hot-line so citizens who have information about an auto theft ring can help drive critical information quickly to the police. We need to leverage the Crime Stoppers Unit and let the citizens know that there is always tipster money available concerning information on auto theft thieves and organized criminal rings. I want to incorporate new Innovative Crime Prevention programs that will help identify stolen vehicles. One successful program is where citizens can put an anti-auto theft sticker in the window of their car which authorizes police to stop their vehicles between 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. This will encourage police to stop participating vehicles without suspicious circumstances being required. Several other states are doing this and have found it to be a great tool to add to the prevention toolbox.

To drive auto theft down, I want to collaborate with all the stakeholders. We need our auto theft investigators to also work closely with MVD to ensure that vehicles being registered as “salvaged or “re-built” have in-depth Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) checks done by highly trained employees and every re-registered car is checked through the National Crime Information Computer (NCIC) to ensure they are not a stolen vehicle.

My Chief will be active in addressing the problem, not from his/her office but from the front line. I want the Chief to be available to the detectives and attend the multidisciplinary information sharing meetings so he/she can be available for addressing the city council for budgetary and staffing needs.

In addition, the Automated Finger Print Identification System (AFIS) is not being fully utilized. I will seek a new state statute allowing finger prints and/or DNA found inside stolen cars to be acceptable probable cause to make an arrest. This change will give law enforcement another tool to fight auto theft. I also will ensure that evidence and stolen property found in these recovered vehicles is

processed appropriately and completely to generate better criminal prosecutions, as well as new investigative leads.

Auto thefts are damaging our City's reputation as a great location to visit or to live. Too many times tourist's vehicles are targeted by criminals. I will work with our Tourism Department and the Greater Albuquerque Innkeepers Association (GAIA) to create plans to keep every hotel/motel parking lot safe from criminal activity, thefts and auto thefts. We must protect the visitors to our City. Lodger's tax money is available to be utilized and I believe we can start a good discussion for coordination of efforts on how that money can also be effectively used to tackle this problem. Coordinating our efforts to keep our tourists' safe is also a priority for the next Mayor as tourism is directly related to promoting a strong economy. Our auto insurance rates are going up because of our auto theft rate. Some companies are leaving New Mexico altogether because of the high theft rates. We don't have to accept this as the new normal. We must be aggressive with our enforcement and we must hold auto thieves accountable when they are caught..

Collaborative Efforts

I know from my experience that the police are only one part of the solution. I will engage and open up meaningful relationships with the 2nd and 13th District Attorney's Offices. It's senseless to arrest auto thieves, only to have them released back out into our City and not prosecuted. I will work to ensure that the criminal cases sent to the DA's are complete and comprehensive investigations and that the detectives are responsive and available for additional follow up and testimony. The APD Crime Lab will include auto thefts as a top priority so any forensic or lab work is completed on time and is available to the courts.

My police management and police officers will work hand in glove with the DA's office. We are on the same team and we must work together to get these auto thieves before a judge and jury. I will have a new highly effective criminal case tracking system put in place that doesn't let criminals "fall between the cracks".

APD and the State Probation and Parole Department have often times worked independently from each other. This disconnect has allowed auto thieves who have been placed on probation and/or mandated ankle monitors to continue to commit new crimes. I will empower our new Police Chief to develop new relationships and programs to create better coordinated efforts.

I have seen our City use cutting edge technology to solve crime problems. For example, a few years ago Albuquerque had an epidemic bank robbery problem. The police worked with the banking industry to use new technology to apprehend these thieves. Bank robberies quickly dropped to all-time lows.

We can use new technology to help solve the auto theft problem too. I want to work with our national companies that provide vehicle recovery systems to make them affordable to our citizens. I will collaborate with our insurance companies to create incentives and a possible rebate program for users. I want to work with our local technology companies and our universities to create the next generation of GPS vehicle recovery using smart phone applications. This technology has the possibilities of eliminating auto theft as we know it today.

My opponents have no experience in law enforcement and public safety. I spent 28 years working on public safety issues at the city level and then at the state level. Working for five different mayors, seven different police chiefs and then the top law enforcement officer of the state, the Attorney General, equipped me with the experience needed to be a mayor that can resolve our tough crime issues. We can't risk our safety to amateurs at this crucial moment in time.

I was told the same 600-individuals are arrested every 6-months. If we have that detailed data, we can get a handle on our crime problem. We already know who our repeat offenders are, we just need to make sure we have follow through.

Reduction of crime and job creation will continuously be a priority for my administration. Crime directly affects our families, business community and tourism. I will use my 28 years of experience in law enforcement to find solutions to the many failures in our justice system. We cannot have a national reputation as a crime ridden city and a city to avoid. We need to make Albuquerque a safe city so businesses and tourism can prosper. A safe city is a

city that can grow jobs and attract new businesses so our families and children can have opportunity and quality of life.

This Mayor's race is a turning point for Albuquerque. My #1 priority as Mayor is to attack crime aggressively. It is imperative we stop the revolving door on criminals who are destroying our community. Leadership, visionary thinking, and public safety experience in the Mayor's office will make Albuquerque safe and prosperous.

-Michelle Garcia Holmes