



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

City Council

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January 25, 2024

Chief Harold Medina
400 Roma NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Chief Medina,

The Albuquerque Police Department has been shaken by the ongoing investigation into criminal behavior of police officers serving under your command. This could end up being the largest corruption scandal in APD's history and will greatly undermine public confidence in the Department and in its leadership.

Chief, it becomes difficult to take you seriously when you take to the news to distort and question the intent of this Council. With a corruption scandal of this magnitude, we as a Council need to understand what factors make it possible to trust in your continued command of our city's police force. As elected representatives of the people of Albuquerque, we have the responsibility of asking questions that may make you uncomfortable. Your level of comfort with difficult questions does not render those questions unnecessary. If the buck does not stop with you, where does it stop?

We understand that the federal investigation is ongoing and specifics of the FBI's investigation will and should remain confidential. At no point have we asked for those details or any information that could compromise the integrity of that investigation.

However, we have basic questions for you not directly related to the investigation. We ask that you provide written answers by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, February 1.

- 1) What is the policy regarding officers and court appearances?
- 2) What are permissible reasons for an officer to miss a pretrial interview, court hearings or trial settings?
- 3) Who may authorize an officer to miss an otherwise required pretrial interview, court hearing or trial setting?
- 4) What disciplinary process is there for officers who miss court appearances?
- 5) What is the procedure for when Department personnel are contacted by defense attorneys on a criminal case?

- 6) In 2023, how many times did officers fail to appear at required pretrial interviews, court hearings or trial settings in DWI cases?
- 7) In 2023, how many DWI cases were dismissed because officers failed to appear at required pretrial interviews, court hearings or trial settings?
- 8) In 2023, how many officers were disciplined for failing to appear at required pretrial interviews, court hearings or trial settings?

Additionally, we formally request that you appear at the City Council meeting on February 5, 2024 to explain the following:

- Outside of cooperating with the federal investigation, what steps are you taking as Chief to ensure this can never happen again?
- What steps are you taking to demand accountability within your chain of command that allowed this to happen?
- When will you provide a full public accounting of what failures in policy and leadership allowed this to happen?
- How can the public have faith in the Department if you remain in charge?

Chief, thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting.

Sincerely,



Dan Lewis
City Council President



Louie Sanchez
City Councilor, District 1



Dan Champine
City Councilor, District 8