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Rep. Herrell Demands DOJ end "Consent Decrees," Stop Sabotaging Albuquerque Police

WASHINGTON - Rep. Yvette Herrell is urging Attorney General Merrick Garland to drop the Department of Justice's "consent decrees" and monitoring schemes for the Albuquerque Police Department, which have made it harder for law enforcement to fight crime and protect their communities.

"I will always stand for the brave men and women in uniform who keep our families safe," said Rep. Herrell. "Violent crime is running rampant in New Mexico, and anti-cop Washington politicians are making it worse. This must end today."

For over seven years, Albuquerque Police have been subject to monitoring by the Department of Justice under a "consent decree," a legal agreement where the city enters into a civil settlement with the DOJ allowing close federal scrutiny and oversight of local law enforcement practices. This usually follows some form of alleged police misconduct. This has made it more difficult to safely police the Albuquerque community.

"This consent decree has been in place for over seven years, cost millions of dollars, and failed to make our state's largest city safer or improve officer retention," wrote Rep. Herrell in her letter to Merrick Garland. "Rather, the opposite is true: In 2021, Albuquerque set an all-time record for homicides. According to the Associated Press, 'Albuquerque has shattered its annual homicide record, marking 117 killings within city limits in 2021.' Crime rates have sharply increased since starting in 2014 when the consent decree was enacted."

"In December, KRQE reported that 'in the first three quarters of 2021, Albuquerque had 111 violent crimes per 10,000 people, according to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). That puts Albuquerque in the top 10 most violent cities with populations of over 100,000 people.' By any public safety measure, our state's largest city is worse-off following enactment of this decree."