



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

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Governor, state leaders discuss progress of public safety initiatives across New Mexico

Gunshots detected in Bernalillo County decreased

SANTA FE – Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham was joined by several state leaders on Tuesday to discuss the progress of the public safety initiatives since gun violence was declared a health emergency in New Mexico.

“Every single New Mexican deserves to be safe. While this public health order is temporary, the results we’ve seen are proof positive that bold actions work,” said **Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham**. “In the last month, law enforcement officials arrested more than 500 people, preventing further violence in the state. As this work progresses, I call on my partners in the Legislature to be ready - on day one of the session - to work on comprehensive public safety and gun violence legislation so this success continues.”

Senior Advisor Ben Baker gave an update on public safety statistics for September, including:

- 502 arrests
- 20 firearms seized
- 1370 traffic citations
- Bookings at the Metropolitan Detention Center increased to an average of 53 per day
- 37% of people arrested remain in custody

The success of the public safety initiatives includes a decrease in gunshots detected in Bernalillo County. From September 18th through the 21st, 166 gunshots were detected, and from September 25th through the 28th, there were 128.

“Gun violence is a contagious disease spreading uncontrollably across our state. It has become one of the leading causes of death among our young people,” said **New Mexico**

Department of Health Secretary Patrick Allen. “This public health crisis calls for us to tap into the spirit of creativity that New Mexico is known for, to unite as a community, and to do everything in our power to halt the spread of this disease and protect the lives of our young people.”

During the press conference, the governor previewed [a new dashboard](#) from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. The Bernalillo County Violent Crime Reduction Operation Dashboard is available for all New Mexicans and will show the progress of the Emergency Public Health Order initiatives.

“This data reflects the incredible work from public safety professionals, both between agencies and intra-disciplinary,” said **Senior Advisor Ben Baker.** “The number of arrests, seizures of guns, and the increase of violent offenders currently in custody is unprecedented in my experience. The availability of a public-facing dashboard is an excellent tool to continue to monitor our progress and identify things that will increase our efficiency.”

The governor was joined by Secretaries Patrick Allen, Jason R. Bowie, Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Kari Armijo, Teresa Casados and James Kenney, and Senior Advisor Ben Baker and Crime Commissioner Pete Kassetas. During the press conference, state leaders discussed looking at gun violence as a disease, updated the status of gun buyback programs, provided updates on the corrections facilities in the state, how MCOs are working on behavioral health supports within 24 hours, CYFD procedures during the health emergency, and steps for routine wastewater testing for opioids.

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