

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque Police Department



Gorden E. Eden, Jr., Chief of Police

June 1, 2016

Councilor Pat Davis
City Councilor
Albuquerque City Council
One Civic Plaza NW #9087
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Councilor Davis:

The APD Narcotics Unit does use 'reversal' narcotic operations where APD focuses on buyers rather than distributing of illegal narcotics. This method is only a small part (approximately 4%) of a multi-level response used to combat illegal narcotics in the City of Albuquerque.

APD Narcotics receives multiple complaints from Albuquerque residents, neighborhood associations and business owners every week. These complaints typically focus on 'quality of life' issues such as: subjects lingering in the area waiting to purchase or use illegal narcotics; and/or persons who appear to be under the influence of such. This is a major problem for these constituents, and APD Narcotics is committed to providing a positive and effective response. Reversal operations are currently the best practice to address these complaints from a law enforcement perspective. During the most recent reversal operation seven of the eight subjects arrested had property crimes arrests in their past. Thus, other criminal activity in and around District 6 may have been reduced by this reversal operation.

The significance of any arrest varies based on the prospective of the viewer. If one of those arrested had previously been the source of a citizen feeling unsafe or frightened, the arrest may be quite significant and would have a community impact. Moreover, during this and other reversal operations, APD Narcotics Unit has gained considerable amounts of actionable information. Any criminal information gained would never be documented on a publicly obtained document, as this could severely endanger the individual. This information is then used in future operations that can further impact the flow of illegal narcotics citywide.

Protecting the community from illegal narcotics and associated crime requires an effective and comprehensive approach that will bring a long-term benefit to the community. As stated above, the APD Narcotics Unit does focus the majority of its operations on dealers and similar type tactics. There are multiple illegal narcotics dealers already present and dealing in the area. Reversal operations are intended to

400 Roma NW

Albuquerque

New Mexico 87102

www.cabq.gov

remove their prospective client base. Therefore, a multi-faceted approach of removing both the seller and buyer is a comprehensive way to hopefully close the market.

Further, when these subjects are arrested and charged with felony narcotics possession as a part of a reversal operation, they will be afforded both substance abuse and mental health assistance (if needed), which are both offered at the Metropolitan Detention Center. Most judges will include mandatory substance abuse treatment as a part of the sentencing agreement. This will often be the only reason these subjects will actually participate in treatment options.

The APD Narcotics Unit conducts a thorough after-action and debrief at the completion of every operation. This is an opportunity to seek out ways of improving and enhancing our efforts for future operations. As APD continues this multi-faceted approach to illegal narcotics, we welcome and appreciate all feedback. Our focus has never been to target the homeless population. We will continue to put forth our best efforts to connect them with local services for support and shelter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon E. Eden, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

GORDEN E. EDEN, JR.
Chief of Police

Cc: Mayor RJ Berry
Deputy Chief Eric Garcia, Investigations Bureau