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Contact: Jerri Mares -- (505) 321-4372

AG Balderas Announces Update on Partnership With APD in New Law Enforcement Initiative Targeting Crimes Against Indigenous Women: Task Force Reforms Headed to Senate Judiciary Committee for Approval

ALBUQUERQUE, NM --- Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is partnering with the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), to review unsolved missing and indigenous persons homicide cases. Special agents and prosecutors from the OAG are working directly with APD's cold case unit to evaluate, investigate, and prosecute cases involving missing and indigenous persons.

As part of a broader coalition to address the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Senator Pinto and the Indian Affairs Department have been instrumental in helping the OAG craft legislation and bring this issue to the forefront. Senate Bill 12, endorsed by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force, removes obstacles to the pursuit of justice for MMIW survivors, victims, and relatives by closing jurisdictional loopholes in the investigation and prosecution of MMIW cases, including funding for case-specialists to provide education and training and assist stakeholders statewide with MMIW investigations.

"Indigenous persons are far too likely to be the victims of violent crime in New Mexico and are inadvertently denied justice by antiquated laws," said Attorney General Hector Balderas. "I will tackle this issue with every tool available to ensure justice is available to all families affected by violent crime, and I commend the Governor for prioritizing this legislation."

Senate Bill 12 further provides grant funding to the 23 sovereign tribes of New Mexico to build a platform for information sharing with the State Missing Persons Clearinghouse for MMIW, and improve reporting of missing persons cases for more effective coordination with law enforcement agencies and improving data collection.

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