

**For Immediate Release:**

July 13, 2022

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

## **AG Balderas to Review Law Enforcement’s Response to Critical Incident Leading to the Tragic Death of 15-Year-Old**

*ALBUQUERQUE* — New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas announced today that the AG’s office will review the actions of law enforcement that led to the death of Brett Rosenau on July 6. AG Balderas previously responded to the ACLU’s request that he would offer assistance and ensure that appropriate actions were taken during the law enforcement operation. On July 12, Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina sent a letter to AG Balderas, formally asking him to review “the recent critical incident”.

“The tragic death of this 15-year-old is a serious matter that warrants a comprehensive review, and we have already taken steps to assemble a team to examine the handling of the incident and conduct an analysis of the use of tactical devices,” said Attorney General Balderas.

On July 6, 2022, Qiaunt Kelley, a fugitive wanted by the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), was barricaded inside a home with Rosenau for several hours as tactical officers attempted to convince him to surrender. To end the standoff, APD used a tactical device and according to reports, the house caught fire an hour later, resulting in Rosenau's death.

An arson investigation is ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

Response letter attached.

**###**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



HECTOR H. BALDERAS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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July 13, 2022

Harold J. Medina  
Chief of Police  
Albuquerque Police Department  
400 Roma NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

*Sent via email only hmedina@cabq.gov*

**Re: Investigation into the death of Brett Rosenau**

Dear Chief Medina,

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 2022, requesting a formal review by this office of the recent tragic death of 15-year-old Brett Rosenau on July 6, 2022. It is my understanding that a multi-agency task force is conducting a criminal investigation into the matter and that an arson investigation is also ongoing.

We appreciate your willingness to seek our assistance in conducting an additional and independent review of your officers' handling of the incident and particularly for an independent analysis of the officers' deployment and use of tactical devices. We have already begun the process of assembling a team to conduct this review, and agree that a transparent and comprehensive review of the matter is warranted, given the tragic circumstances of Brett Rosenau's death.

We look forward to the continued cooperation with your department as we begin our analysis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Anne Kelly".

M. Anne Kelly  
Chief Deputy Attorney General  
[akelly@nmag.gov](mailto:akelly@nmag.gov)