



January 11, 2017

(Via First-Class and Electronic Mail)

The Honorable Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Public Safety in New Orleans

Dear Attorney General Landry:

In light of recent reports regarding the work of your violent crime task force, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to public safety efforts in not only the city of New Orleans but in the entire metropolitan area as well. I have never seen an Attorney General take a more active interest in assisting to keep our region safe. The members of my staff and I have enjoyed working with your office and have found you to be dedicated public servants. I have been given similar reports from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's office as well as our Federal law enforcement brethren.

I have found you to be an honest broker who seeks to promote cooperation among law enforcement agencies. Additionally, based on private conversations that I have had with ranking members of the New Orleans Police Department, I believe that they share this belief.

Violent crime is on the rise in the city of New Orleans. New Orleans last year saw a steady increase in the number of murders. Additionally, the number of shootings in the city skyrocketed. These increases in violent crime have correlated with a historic drop in NOPD manpower. Not surprisingly, as manpower has dipped violent crime has steadily increased. This issue will continue to confound the city for the foreseeable future. Based on the paltry manpower increases in 2016, it will literally take the NOPD decades to return to its pre-2010 staffing levels.

I say this to emphasize that now is not the time to be rejecting the assistance of law enforcement personnel. We need all hands on deck if we are going to turn the corner on this public safety crisis. If city leaders do not believe that your resources are being deployed in the most efficient manner, then it is incumbent upon them to invite you to the table and offer alternative strategies.

I have never seen an Attorney General who takes not only an active interest in the public safety of this city, but who also is willing to devote his precious government resources to accomplish the mission of making our streets safer. I look forward to building on this

continued cooperation. In the meantime, if there is any assistance that I can provide, please do not hesitate to ask.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr.
Orleans Parish District Attorney

LAC/csb