

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 4, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We are writing you to express our concern over the rise of violent crime in the Quad Cities metro area, which encompasses parts of Iowa and Illinois. As a result of the unprecedented rise in violent crime, elected and police leadership from the Quad Cities communities recently met with us to identify solutions to combat violent crime in their communities and to identify federal law enforcement resources which could be assigned to the Quad Cities to assist local law enforcement. According to the most recently published FBI Uniform Crime Statistics data by metro area, the Quad Cities metro area communities have seen a 30% increase in violent crime representing the 13<sup>th</sup> largest increase in violent crime across all metro areas in the United States, but lack many of the federal resources that comparatively sized metro areas possess.<sup>1</sup>

Despite its near 400,000 person population, the communities of the Quad Cities suffer from a unique geography which has prevented equivalent federal law enforcement resources from being assigned to the area.<sup>2</sup> The Quad Cities are composed of the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa and Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline, in Illinois. Both Davenport and Rock Island are home to federal court houses and branch offices of the Southern District of Iowa and Central District of Illinois U.S. Attorneys Offices respectively. However, outside of a small satellite FBI office in Moline, IL, there are no federal law enforcement agencies represented within the communities. Additionally, there are currently zero federal task forces operating in the Quad Cities targeting violent crime.

The community and police leadership of the Quad Cities have specifically asked for the following which we are in united and complete support:

- The establishment of a cross-jurisdictional federal task force to specifically target violent criminal offenders in the Quad Cities;

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Stebbins, *Violent Crime Rose in the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Area in 2020*, The Center Square, March 11, 2022, [https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/violent-crime-rose-in-the-davenport-moline-rock-island-ia-il-area-in-2020/article\\_be5d2473-b6b3-5657-9485-421d9bfc211d.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/violent-crime-rose-in-the-davenport-moline-rock-island-ia-il-area-in-2020/article_be5d2473-b6b3-5657-9485-421d9bfc211d.html).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Decennial Census* (2020), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=310XX00US19340&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>.

- The assignment of Special Agents from the ATF to the communities of the Quad Cities to assist local law enforcement in firearms investigations;
- The assignment of Special Agents from the FBI to the communities of the Quad Cities to assist local law enforcement in violent crime investigations.

In support of their request, we request the following from the Department of Justice:

1. The respective United States Attorneys offices coordinate with federal, state, and local law enforcement to establish a cross-jurisdictional task force covering the communities of the Quad Cities with the specific mission to target the violent criminal offenders who are plaguing the communities of the Quad Cities.
2. Physically assign Special Agents from the appropriate DOJ agencies to the communities of the Quad Cities to coordinate with local law enforcement on violent crime investigations.
3. Facilitate meetings between our staffs and regional leadership of the ATF and FBI to discuss violent crime in the Quad Cities and the proposed cross jurisdictional task force.
4. Facilitate meetings between our staffs and the respective United States Attorneys Offices to discuss the proposed cross-jurisdictional task force.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator