



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Southern District of Mississippi*  
501 E. Court St., Suite 4.430  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

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October 26, 2020

**VIA: ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND-DELIVERY**

James Davis, Chief of Police  
Jackson Police Department  
327 East Pascagoula St.  
Jackson, MS 39205

*Re: JPD Press Conference Scheduled for Tomorrow, October 27, 2020*

Dear Chief Davis:

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your officers are staying safe. We have enjoyed working with the Jackson Police Department (“JPD”) over the last three years under our office’s Project EJECT. We greatly appreciate the hard work of your officers and value your Department as a committed partner in fighting and reducing violent crime in our Capital City.

I was informed Friday that JPD has scheduled a press conference for tomorrow morning, October 27, 2020, to announce an upcoming two-week “surge” or “saturation” of law enforcement that JPD is planning to conduct over the next two weeks in the City of Jackson.

I left a voicemail for you on your cellphone Friday, but I have not yet heard back from you. Therefore, **I am writing to voice my grave concerns about a press conference being conducted BEFORE the execution of a law enforcement operation.** I believe such a media event will simply put criminals “on notice” that law enforcement will be out enforcing the law, which could put our law enforcement in serious danger if criminals know JPD’s game plan beforehand and could cause criminals to simply “lay low” or hide from law enforcement during this operation, negating the effectiveness of such work.

I have communicated my concerns to the leaders of other federal law enforcement agencies in Mississippi, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Marshals Service, all of whom share my belief as to the unwise timing of this press conference.

**I would strongly encourage you not to hold a press conference before the operation.** Simply waiting until the conclusion of the operation and then announcing any results will serve a much better purpose, will not impact the effectiveness of the plan, and will not put officers’ lives in jeopardy.

Fighting violent crime in our communities continues to be one of the highest priorities of the U.S. Department of Justice, and we in the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to work closely with JPD and other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Jackson to do this important work in our Capital City. Based on the concerns stated above, I hope you will reconsider your plan to conduct a press conference before your law enforcement operation.

As always, if you need anything from me or the U.S. Attorney's Office, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



D. Michael Hurst, Jr.  
United States Attorney

*cc: (electronic mail only)*  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
U.S. Marshals Service