



# CITY OF SUNLAND PARK NEW MEXICO

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### City Police and County Sheriff's Office Announce Joint Effort to Address Recreational Desert Shooting and Promote Gun Safety

The Sunland Park Police Department and the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office announce the launch of a coordinated enforcement and outreach initiative to address the growing concerns over outdoor recreational shooting in the desert areas of Santa Teresa and the surrounding residential neighborhoods of the City of Sunland Park.

Over recent weeks, residents have reported stray bullets striking homes during weekend gatherings often accompanied by loud music and unsafe target shooting. These incidents have raised serious concerns about public safety, noise disturbances, and property damage.

As part of this initiative, city police and county deputies will work together through a cross-commissioned enforcement effort and increasing patrols capabilities in areas where illegal or unsafe shooting activity is reported. Law enforcement will closely monitor areas with frequent weekend gatherings to deter unsafe firearm use.

"Recreational shooting can quickly become dangerous when it happens too close to homes or without proper safety precautions," said Deputy Chief Andres Morales. "Our goal is to prevent accidents, protect families, and ensure the community can feel safe in their own neighborhoods."

As part of a broader effort, the Sunland Park Police Department and City leadership recently met with Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office to renew a collaborative commitment to both county and city residents.

"The County takes these safety concerns seriously and is reviewing the situation in coordination with law enforcement, legal counsel, and other partner agencies," said County Sheriff Kim Stewart. "This renewed partnership includes the Sheriff cross-commissioning all Sunland Park Police Officers, a step that strengthens our shared ability to address public safety issues such as trespassing on private property and to work together proactively on community concerns."

While the reported activity appears to occur on private property, the County and City are exploring options within its authority to help reduce risk and protect the safety of residents and property in the surrounding area. Additionally, existing trespassing signage is being reviewed to improve visibility and awareness of restricted zones and private property boundaries. Public education and outreach will be expanded to remind residents and visitors of firearm safety responsibilities and legal consequences.

Residents are encouraged to report any unsafe shooting activity to the non-emergency dispatch at [575-526-0795](tel:575-526-0795) or call [911](tel:911) in case of an immediate threat.

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