

Commonwealth of Kentucky

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SENATOR JULIE RAQUE ADAMS
MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Andy Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

On August 10th, I lost a friend to violence and murder in my hometown. Mr. David Boggs went to church with my family, and his daughter is a childhood friend of my son.

The Boggs family released a statement that prompted my letter to you today:

“Although the impact of violence in our community hits hardest on those families who suffer the loss of a loved one, violence is a community pain shared by all of us for each victim across our entire city. Its affliction can only be resolved by a united community effort.”

Governor, I believe that to effectively participate in a “united community effort” to curb the violence and unrest in Louisville, the effort must include state leadership and resources.

Carjacking has increased by over 400%. There are over 360 victims of non-fatal gunshot wounds in our hospitals. Louisville’s violent criminal activity is skyrocketing, leaving Kentucky’s largest city on course to break its one-year record of 117 homicides, with 104 homicides already reported in this calendar year.

The City of Louisville is experiencing racial tensions not seen here in decades. At the same time, policing is in disarray, and the law enforcement policies of our city are in turmoil. The Louisville Chief of Police was fired, and nearly 200 officers have resigned or retired. This mass exodus of officers and staff from the Metro Police Department, coupled with policy frictions, will compromise basic safety if more demonstrating and violence occur, as has been threatened.

There has been chaos in our neighborhoods, on our streets, and in our central business district. Downtown Louisville is boarded up. Businesses, hotels, and restaurants are shut down. The plywood covering our buildings downtown is not to keep Covid-19 out, but because the Mayor has been unable or unwilling to protect private property. Louisville was once a high-energy city.

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Now, it's a boarded-up mess, and people who live here are so afraid to go downtown that economic recovery cannot even begin.

Governor, we need your help! Since March, the state has functioned under your emergency executive orders. We need your focus, plans, and leadership in the state's largest city to begin healing from the violence, and generating an economic recovery.

I stand ready and willing to help in and with your plans for Louisville's rescue. I know my colleagues in the State Senate also stand prepared to restore order and security to our neighbors, our property, and our businesses. Governor, the time for partnership is now. It is time to show the state our "united community effort."

I look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

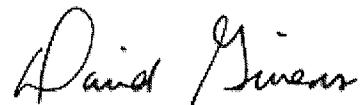


Julie Raque Adams
State Senator

This letter comes to you with the support of all members of the Senate Majority Leadership.



Robert Stivers
Senate President



David Givens
Senate Majority Pro-Tem



Damon Thayer
Senate Majority Floor Leader



Mike Wilson
Senate Majority Whip