

**BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**SHERIFF MANUEL GONZALES III**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III Launches New DEA Task Force Unit with New Federal Funding***

*Albuquerque, NM* – This morning, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III announced a 400% manning increase in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office new DEA Task Force Unit. The DEA is responsible with the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act as well as investigations of the highest level for domestic and international narcotics traffickers. Utilizing direct cooperation with DEA, the expansion of the BCSO DEA Task Force Program is one of the most productive ways to combat drug-trafficking and associated crimes. The continued success of BCSO's federal partnerships provided the impetus for additional resources from the federal government for the unit.

"The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office is committed along with our federal law enforcement partners to remove career criminals from the streets and combat Albuquerque's out-of-control crime crisis," said **Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III**. "We will use all means necessary to pursue and prosecute these violent career criminals in federal court who endanger our children, families and businesses."

BCSO's federal partner will pay investigative overtime for the BCSO DEA Task Force Unit officers, as well as investigative expenses such as payments to informants, "buy money" to purchase contraband, undercover vehicles, and surveillance equipment. While funding for specialized task forces like the BCSO DEA Task Force Unit is not available from state or local governments, federal law enforcement agencies continue to fund these critical crime fighting initiatives by Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III and BCSO.

The DEA Task Force Program provides a federal presence by combining federal leverage with specialists available to the DEA and local deputy's investigative talents. Additionally, BCSO deputy's knowledge of their own jurisdiction leads to highly effective narcotics investigations. Federal prosecutions greatly impact the community resulting in tougher penalties and removal of dangerous criminals off the streets.

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