



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker Emerita

April 27, 2023

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

Dear Attorney General Garland:

Thank you for your leadership to promote justice and safety in our Country. It was especially encouraging to see the priority placed on fighting fentanyl, especially considering the challenge we face in San Francisco. In that regard, I am writing to request a designation of Operation Overdrive for San Francisco.

On March 14, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco provided the opportunity for an extensive discussion with the DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. Administrator Milgram indicated that San Francisco might be an appropriate location for the implementation of Operation Overdrive and suggested a meeting with DEA Special Agent in Charge for the Northern District Brian Clark. Agent Clark emphasized that a data driven, whole community approach was needed to reduce the sale of fentanyl and the violence related to it. It is our understanding that Operation Overdrive has had some level of success in Florida and Pennsylvania and has been implemented to a certain extent in Oakland.

I would not have requested further federal intervention without the support of local authorities, particularly San Francisco Mayor London Breed. We also knew that we needed a U.S. Attorney assigned to our region to proceed. We were pleased that, due to the leadership of Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ismail Ramsey was confirmed and recently sworn in.

On April 6, I met with U.S. Attorney Ramsey and on April 12, he met with Mayor Breed. Prior to those meetings, in a March 27 letter, Mayor Breed stated: "We need additional support from the Department of Justice." We are anticipating a follow up meeting soon with U.S. Attorney Ramsey and DEA Special Agent in Charge Clark in regard to federal support to deter drug trafficking to ensure public safety.

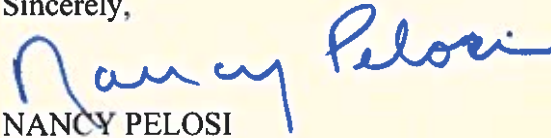
Mr. Attorney General, this request is urgent. My constituents have a strong sense of community and the overall safety in our City, but have expressed to me specific concern about the fentanyl crisis. While our City has an ongoing and increasingly robust public health response, we need law enforcement targeted at the cartels, who are brazen in certain neighborhoods. For example, even in front of the Federal Buildings, they are impeding access to Social Security benefits assistance and other federal services.

With the action taken by Mayor London Breed, then by Governor Gavin Newsom calling on the National Guard and Highway Patrol, the active involvement of local officials and law enforcement, and the participation of our communities and residents in the area, we have collaboration to provide a whole of government approach.

Time is of the essence. People are dying from fentanyl and violence. We hope to hear soon about a designation of Operation Overdrive for San Francisco to combat the cartels.

Many thanks for the consideration of the Department of Justice of this request.

Sincerely,



NANCY PELOSI
Speaker Emerita