



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 9, 2020

Colonel Steven C. McCraw
Director
Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-4087

Director McCraw:

As you are aware, two stabbings have taken place in the downtown Austin area in less than a week. One person has died from those attacks and others remain seriously injured. These crimes add to a growing list of reports of physical assaults and threats, even arson, in areas near the Capitol Complex and The University of Texas at Austin (UT). The attack on Congress Bridge that left one person hospitalized and four women traumatized and the arson attack at the 7-Eleven near UT's campus are just two instances where people's lives have been threatened.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is not charged with the duty to police the streets of Austin—that is the City of Austin's responsibility. However, the State of Texas must do all it can to protect the safety of all its residents and visitors. That duty falls even more heavily on DPS when it comes to employees and visitors at all State of Texas facilities—including UT.

To enhance public safety in and around state facilities, DPS should begin patrols on Monday, January 13, 2020, within two blocks of any state building in Austin, including the Capitol Complex and the UT campus, and strictly enforce all state and local laws.

Thank you for your service and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jwk