

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2022

Chris Magnus
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Troy A. Miller
Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Dear Commissioner Magnus and Deputy Commissioner Miller,

We write today on the heels of several recent fatal vehicle crashes involving U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents along the southwest border. The July 27th [crash](#) in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, which occurred after Border Patrol reportedly initiated a pursuit, left two people dead and 10 others injured. Another person [died on August 15th](#) in El Paso following a “Border Patrol operation” in a crash that also injured 7 others. Though these deadly crashes are currently under investigation, we cannot ignore these incidents make up a growing list of Border Patrol agent-involved vehicle pursuit deaths.

As of August 15, 2022, there have been 21 deaths related to CBP vehicle pursuits, including a fatal crash in Benson, [Arizona](#) just one day after the Santa Teresa incident. This puts 2022 firmly on track to be the deadliest year on record for deaths related to Border Patrol pursuits, potentially surpassing the unprecedented 23 pursuit-related deaths that occurred over the course of 2021, according to publicly available [data](#).

We were pleased to see that CBP is making efforts to [update](#) its high-speed vehicle pursuit policies to better align with public safety concerns. We urge the agency to be both transparent in these efforts as well as collaborative with any community and/or public safety stakeholders as the agency works to create a new vehicle pursuit policy.

To that end, we ask the following:

- What is the agency’s timeline for developing the updated vehicle pursuit policy? When does the agency expect to publish its new policy?
- How soon could these updated policies be finalized and implemented? What plans are in place to train agents on the new policy and ensure they follow it going forward?
- As the agency is developing policies more attuned to public safety concerns, what community stakeholders is the agency engaging with in order to ensure any contemplated changes under the new policy effectively respond to existing concerns?

As the country's largest law enforcement agency, CBP has a responsibility to prioritize public safety. Agent-involved vehicle pursuits have killed 44 people in just the last two years, U.S. citizens and migrants alike, some of which were innocent bystanders and drivers. This is untenable.

We are glad to see the agency taking steps to address gaps in current policy that may have contributed to such deadly encounter outcomes. We urge CBP to be proactive in sharing updates, when appropriate, on their progress toward robust, community safety-focused high-speed pursuit policies.

Sincerely,




Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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