

November 26, 2025

The Honorable Kashyap Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Patel,

Thank you for visiting St. Louis, Missouri, on November 21st, addressing the field office, and leading a law enforcement roundtable with several dozen leaders from state and local law enforcement.¹ The FBI's permanent infusion of full-time agents and intelligence personnel to the St. Louis Field Office, one of the largest per-capita increases in the nation,² will be instrumental in promoting law and order in the area. The FBI's increased efforts under your leadership to combat violent crime has already begun to improve the lives of St. Louis's citizens.

I write to invite you to visit Kansas City, Missouri, to tour and address the FBI Kansas City Field Office, and to discuss how the FBI and the Trump Administration are tackling violent crime in the Kansas City metropolitan area following your commendable May 2025 decision to relocate numerous positions out of Washington, D.C., to Kansas City, as I advocated for earlier this year.³

Few cities in America could have benefitted more from an additional infusion of human capital than Kansas City. Staffing shortages are acute across law enforcement agencies in the Kansas City metropolitan area.⁴

This announcement came at a time of rising crime in Kansas City metropolitan area: "Kansas City is one of just six major U.S. cities where homicides rose in early 2025—bucking a national trend of falling violent crime."⁵ The rise in violent crime has correlated with police enforcement activity dropping to record-lows in recent years.⁶

¹ Gregg Palermo, *FBI, Schmitt tout 'St. Louis Summer Heat' focus on violent crime, permanent resources coming here*, SPECTRUM NEWS (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/mo/st-louis/news/2025/11/21/stl-fbi-violent-crime-operations>.

² Press Release, Office of Senator Eric Schmitt, *Senator Schmitt Secures Historic FBI Investment to Combat Violent Crime in St. Louis* (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.schmitt.senate.gov/media/press-releases/senator-schmitt-secures-historic-fbi-investment-to-combat-violent-crime-in-st-louis/>.

³ Morgan Riddell & Grace Smith, *FBI eyes Kansas City as part of cross country expansion*, KCTV 5 (May 12, 2025), <https://www.kctv5.com/2025/05/12/fbi-eyes-kansas-city-part-cross-country-expansion/>.

⁴ Morgan Riddell, *Staffing shortages drive police salary competition across the metro*, KCTV 5 (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://www.kctv5.com/2025/10/29/staffing-shortages-drive-police-salary-competition-across-metro/> (highlighting both the staffing shortages and the rising police salaries in the Kansas City metropolitan area).

⁵ Abbey Higginbotham, *Homicides fall across U.S., but rise in KC*, AXIOS (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/local/kansas-city/2025/08/19/homicides-fall-across-us-but-rise-in-kc>.

⁶ Tom Gantert, *Kansas City crime rises as police enforcement drops to record-low levels*, THE CENTER SQUARE (June 10, 2024), https://www.thecentersquare.com/missouri/article_d74f0864-275e-11ef-8c45-5f4af888b5af.html

I commend you for your leadership in shifting the FBI's focus toward crime fighting and agree with your recent statement: "The FBI's mission is simple: keep Americans safe. That means putting more agents on the streets and more resources into communities that need it most."⁷

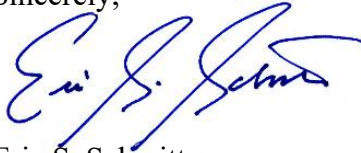
Next year, Kansas City will serve as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, playing an important role in hosting matches, welcoming international fans, and serving as a midpoint hub for soccer fans traveling across the country to attend games.⁸

More importantly, the Kansas City metropolitan area is home to more 2.2 million Americans, including over 1.3 million Missourians. They deserve to live in a community free from the blight of unchecked violent crime. America is only as strong as its Heartland. For too long, Washington's elites have focused primarily on our large coastal cities and neglected that truth.

I am deeply grateful for your tireless work to Make America Safe Again. To that end, I invite you to Kansas City in the new year to discuss successes over the past year and how we can continue and build upon this focus and commitment to Kansas City. Under your leadership, the FBI is uniquely positioned to play an organizing and leading role in collaborative violent crime interdiction efforts between federal, state, and local partners. Just last week, FBI KC played a pivotal role in the multi-agency "Operation Brightside" in Columbia, Missouri.⁹

Together with state and local law enforcement leaders, we can chart the course for collaborative multilateral crime-fighting efforts in the years ahead—just as we did in St. Louis.¹⁰

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator

(Physical arrests dropped from 320,223 in 2010 to 142,131 in 2020. The city stopped reporting physical arrests in its annual audited report after 2020. General arrested dropped from 37,171 in 2010 to 9,662 in 2023.)

⁷ Press Release, Office of Senator Eric Schmitt, Senator Schmitt Secures Historic FBI Investment to Combat Violent Crime in St. Louis (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.schmitt.senate.gov/media/press-releases/senator-schmitt-secures-historic-fbi-investment-to-combat-violent-crime-in-st-louis/>.

⁸ See e.g., Adam Crafton, *Kansas City unveils plan for its free 2026 World Cup fan fest*, THE ATHLETIC (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6756977/2025/10/28/kansas-city-2026-world-cup-fan-fest-plan/>.

⁹ See Jazsmin Halliburton & Meghan Drakas, *Local, state and federal officials announce 33 arrests in 'Operation Brightside' warrant sweep in Columbia*, ABC 17 (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://abc17news.com/news/crime/2025/11/24/local-state-and-federal-officials-announce-33-arrests-in-operation-brightside-warrant-sweep-in-columbia/>.

¹⁰ Rachel Lippman, *FBI touts success of surge of agents to St. Louis region*, ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://www.stlpr.org/news-briefs/2025-11-21/fbi-touts-success-of-surge-of-agents-to-st-louis-region>