



April 10, 2026

Natasha Prinzing Jones
Boone Karlberg, P.C.
201 West Main St.
Suite 300
Missoula, MT 59807

[Via email to npjones@boonekarlberg.com](mailto:npjones@boonekarlberg.com)

Re: Helena Resolution No. 21062 Investigation

Dear Ms. Jones:

I am in receipt of your April 1, 2026, letter regarding the City of Helena's ("City") Resolution 21062.

First, as the letter acknowledges, the City repealed Resolution 21062 on March 26, 2026. As a result, the investigation announced in the March 10, 2026, cease-and-desist letter is moot and, therefore, closed.

Second, although I appreciate the City's offer to work together on its next foray into immigration matters, it rests upon a fundamental misunderstanding about Montana law and the role of the Attorney General. So let me take this opportunity to disabuse the City (and other localities) of the notion that compliance with Montana's anti-sanctuary city law is a collaborative enterprise. The Legislature was clear when it enacted Mont. Code Ann. § 2-1-602: local governments don't get to set their own immigration policies.

In 2020, 2022, and 2024, Montanans voted—overwhelmingly—to reject the devastating open borders policies of the Biden Administration and the dangerous sanctuary policies of blue jurisdictions like California and Minnesota. Those critical public-safety decisions are not subject to veto by local governments. And rightly so. Just last week, a Honduran National with no passport or ID—Jorge Samuel Lopez Bardales—was arrested for allegedly swinging a knife at a man in the Helena Dairy Queen parking lot.¹ It's disheartening and disappointing that the City would rather

¹ https://helenair.com/news/local/crime-courts/article_ce24000d-2c09-481d-af56-6964488d7edd.html

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026
Contactdoj@mt.gov
mtdoj.gov

spend its time and money keeping violent criminals in our community than ensuring residents have clean drinking water, efficient government services, and safe streets.

Should the City choose to waste additional taxpayer resources by adopting another ordinance, my office will evaluate that policy for compliance with state law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin Knudsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

AUSTIN KNUDSEN
Montana Attorney General