



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

## City Council

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## Albuquerque City Councilor Dan Champine Warns Public to Beware of Scams Targeting Help for Flood Victims

*Councilor Champine urges caution when seeking to help victims of disasters.*

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – **Albuquerque City Councilor Dan Champine (District 8)** today issued a public awareness announcement urging residents to exercise caution regarding potential scams targeting victims of the recent floods in Ruidoso, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as other natural disasters currently impacting communities.

“My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of the devastating floods in Texas and Ruidoso, and indeed to all those experiencing the profound impact of natural disasters right now,” stated Councilor Champine. “The resilience of these communities in the face of such adversity is truly inspiring.”

Councilor Champine, a former police officer, emphasized the importance of vigilance during these challenging times. “Unfortunately, during periods of crisis, unscrupulous individuals often emerge, seeking to exploit the generosity and compassion of others,” he warned. “We all want to extend our support to those in need, but it’s critical to take necessary precautions to ensure that your contributions are reaching legitimate agencies and truly helping those who have been impacted.”

Councilor Champine urges the public to remember the following:

**Verify the Organization:** Before donating, always verify the legitimacy of the charity or organization. Reputable organizations will have clear contact information, a professional website, and often a history of disaster relief efforts.

**Be Wary of Unsolicited Requests:** Be suspicious of unsolicited emails, phone calls, or door-to-door solicitations asking for immediate donations.

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Do Not Feel Pressured: Legitimate charities will not pressure you to donate immediately. Take your time to research before committing.

Protect Your Personal Information: Never provide personal financial information, such as bank account numbers or Social Security numbers, to unverified sources.

Consider Local and Established Charities: Often, local community foundations and well-known national disaster relief organizations are the most effective in getting aid directly to those affected.

Report Suspicious Activity: If you suspect a scam, report it to local law enforcement or the appropriate consumer protection agencies.

Visit the link below to read the FCC's consumer guide:

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/after-storms-watch-out-scams>.

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**City Councilor Dan Champine** represents District 8, Albuquerque's Far Northeast Heights and Foothills and was elected to the City Council in 2023.