



Embassy of Chile
Office of the Ambassador

Washington June 14, 2023

Mr. Todd Spitzer
District Attorney
Orange County
California

Dear Mr. Spitzer,

Let me first express my deep concern and consternation on the participation of Chileans citizens in criminal activities in Orange County. As my government has publicly declared, we strongly condemn these actions, most particularly because they bring insecurity to the homes of American citizens but also because they might signify a regrettable misuse of the Visa Waiver program which we strongly value as a very important element in the relationship between our countries.

From the moment you publicly denounced these criminal actions, we attempted through our Consulate in Los Angeles to contact your office. We wanted to communicate our full disposition to cooperate with you, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the FBI to identify these individuals. In fact, we sent to Los Angeles our Police attaché, Commissary Ms. Eliana Ramos, who on June the 1st held personal meetings with the Sheriff Department's Office of the Los Angeles County and a representative of the FBI. In both meetings there was a recognition of the importance of the exchange of information between our police institutions.

In 2022 more than 350.000 Chilean citizens were able to use the Visa Waiver Program to visit the United States. This is a recognition to the particularly friendly relationship between our countries during the last twenty years.

At the same time, for the last two years our government and the Department of Homeland Security have worked together to decisively improve the sharing of police information. The Chilean government has clearly shown its political will to take the necessary steps needed for a higher degree of excellence in our police cooperation. We are at present finalizing the text of a new agreement that will increase the automatization and instant sharing of police information. The demanding police agreement we expect to sign next week makes the Visa Waiver Program a security tool that, by improving the quality of information, effectively prevents individuals with criminal backgrounds to travel between our countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Juan Gabriel Valdés
Ambassador of Chile to the United States