

Dear Pima County Supervisors:

Last year, the legislature reformed RICO and Civil Asset Forfeiture laws in order to address abuses of these laws and the assets collected by county prosecutors from our citizens in civil court. I am greatly concerned as I learn more about past and current practices within the office of County Attorney Barbara LaWall and the Pima County Sheriff's department.

RICO and CAF laws were never intended to take monies from average citizens, who are not part of organized crime, to be used (abused) by government officials and agencies as a slush fund for non-law enforcement activities. These practices are counter to everything that embodies the concept of 'public trust.'

LaWall's current requests, that include a \$5,000 payment to the Perimeter Bicycling Association of America, Inc., demonstrate to me that further state legislative action is needed in order to hold county officials personally accountable for their decisions.

Regards,

State Representative Bob Thorpe

REC'D CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
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