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Rick's Comments to the Pima County Board of Supervisors

I want to speak against participation in Operation Stonegarden by the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

First, it is clear to me, from the memorandum from the Pima County Administrator, that many facts pertaining to this operation are not well understood outside the Sheriff's department. I have not seen the Sheriff's response to this memorandum, but I suspect it will boil down to the fact that we, as taxpayers, are paying for the privilege of participating in Operation Stonegarden. This amounts to a double tax on the residents of this county, giving county funds to a federal agency. And what kind of clarity will the Department provide? Has Border Patrol insisted on secrecy and fiscal opacity as a condition of participation?

Second, the Sheriff and his entire department are accountable to Pima County. This is a critically important feature of local law enforcement. Despite being the seventh largest sheriff's department in the nation, at roughly 600 sworn deputies, we are dwarfed by a para-military-style federal force of over 4,000 members, in the Tuscon sector alone. The Border Patrol has a history of abuse of human rights, abuse of detainees, disregard for the law and the environment, and other kinds of misbehavior, and are accountable to no one in Pima County. We must stop, and prevent

further, cross-pollination between our Sheriff's Department and the Border Patrol. We cannot allow our officers to absorb any more of their corporate culture, their disdain for the people they detain, or their disregard for the humanitarian concerns that they generate. *WE CAN'T LET THEM BECOME THE BORDER PATROL AUXILIARY.*

Finally, trust in the community has to be earned, and once lost, is extremely difficult to regain. During a joint operation, how is the use of force determined? What about racial profiling? I agree with Mr. Elias' opinion in the Arizona Daily Star, regarding possible loss of community cooperation when BP agents are on the scene.

Finally, I will just ask you to please decline this invitation from the Federal Government. We don't need the work, we can't afford the money, and we have our reputation to think of. Please let Operation Stonegarden sink to the bottom of the swamp it came from. Please let the Pima County Sheriff's Department maintain the peace as they have done since 1865.

Thank you.