
PIMA COUNTY DEPUTY'S ORGANIZATION

Honorable Supervisors,

Recently, Sheriff Chris Nanos appeared before you to ask for 45 million dollars in additional funding to extend and expand an existing contract with Axon.

We do not support this request.

The Pima County Deputy's Organization, the largest union in the agency, believes that any increase in funding should go to where it is urgently, desperately needed – raises for deputies to stop the current exodus to other agencies.

We understand that the county has enormous budget challenges and the concern amongst deputies still here is that our effort to close the gap with other agencies will be hurt if this request is granted. Sheriff Nanos already has a large budget and could find the room to pay for this contract if he were more responsible with it. Simply trimming the unnecessary bloat in his senior command, for example, would provide him with much more flexibility.

Another concern, voiced by a few Supervisors, is over privacy. Axon body cameras already capture our citizens in the worst moments of their lives – often from the inside of their homes. Axon gathers and stores our evidence. Axon programs are on our county phones. Axon supplies our less lethal equipment. Now Sheriff Nanos wants Axon to write our reports. Our public agency is rapidly becoming ensnared by a private corporation. Soon we will be so entangled with Axon that the consequences of breaking free will be too high.

On a fundamental level, committing our agency to a contract well past the current term of an elected official is financially risky. If in a few years, Sheriff Nanos is defeated in the next election, the new sheriff could choose to go in another direction.

The most financially sound investment the Board could make, we believe, is not in gadgets from Scottsdale, but the talented, experienced people in Pima County. The most valuable thing a

deputy has is not training nor equipment, but experience. That experience is being driven to other agencies with every week that passes. Our citizens will benefit far more from having experienced deputies than AI reports.

We encourage the Board to vote against this proposal.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Aaron D. Cross

President, Pima County Deputy's Organization