



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mark D. Napier, Sheriff

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 31, 2018
To: Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
From: Mark D. Napier
Sheriff
Subject: Redistribution of Stonegarden Funding

*Check
copy to
Board
for info.
CDN
8/31/18*

It has come to my attention you have requested some evidence that if Pima County rejects Operation Stonegarden funding that it would be redistributed to others. I can provide no such evidence, because to the best of my knowledge rejection of Stonegarden funding would be unprecedented.

Stonegarden funding originates from FEMA. From there it goes to the Department of Homeland Security and then flows down to the states and then to county Sheriffs. In the coming year, there will be significantly more Stonegarden funds coming to Arizona. Once Stonegarden funds come to the states, they are distributed through a local oversight committee to the Sheriffs. Preference is given to Tier One Counties (border counties, such as Pima). Returning funds to the federal government at the state level would be undesirable, as it would indicate a lesser need for funding in the future. The states are strongly motivated to appropriately expend Stonegarden funds and have done so successfully throughout the duration of the program. In no small part, that is why Arizona stands to receive more funding in the coming year.

If Pima County were to remove itself from the current funding cycle, the state DOHS would be strongly motivated to distribute the remaining funds to others so they could be expended prior to the end of the calendar year. Funding for next year is already in the pipeline and would necessarily have to be redistributed to others. It is unthinkable that the funds would be returned to DHS, then to FEMA and the federal government would simply write off as an enforcement failure the largest border county in the United States. Doing so would be correctly recognized as not only jeopardizing public safety in Pima County, but would also have national implications as we are a major corridor for drug trafficking. The opioid crisis is considered a national public health emergency. We could not cease national interdiction efforts in Pima County because of an irresponsible politically driven decision locally.

I am 100% confident that if Pima County rejects Stonegarden funding, those funds will have to be redistributed to others to continue enforcement efforts in our county.