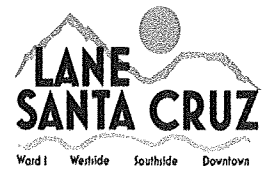


The Office of Council Member Lane Santa Cruz

940 W. Alameda Ave
Tucson, AZ 85745

(520) 791-4040
ward1@tucsonaz.gov



November 26, 2024

Melissa Manriquez
Pima County Clerk of the Board
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 100
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: In Support of Mr. Gerard Acuña to Fill the Position of Constable, Justice Precinct 9

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Council Office of Ward 1, we are pleased to express our support for the nomination of Mr. Gerard Acuña to the vacant position of Constable in Pima County. As representatives for the Southside and Westside of the City of Tucson, which overlaps with Justice Precinct 9, we know that it is important to have public office filled by people who know this community and its needs well.

We first met Gerard when he was a 5th Grader from the Southside volunteering at BICAS (Bicycle Inter Community Art and Salvage) in order to fix his bicycle. An early leader, Gerard brought his siblings and younger neighbors with him to learn about bicycles and being part of a community. In his teen years, Gerard also participated in BICAS youth programs as a ride leader, mentoring elementary school aged new riders.

His interest in community safety led to a mentorship experience with Colette Philip, a now retired Pima County Constable of Justice Precinct 9, where he shadowed the work of a constable. This experience showed Mr. Acuña how the position can support both landlord and tenants rights with education and resources geared towards our most vulnerable communities including veterans, the elderly and single moms.

Tucson is facing an unprecedented housing and mental health crisis. We are recommending Gerard Acuña as a Constable who takes the approach of compassion and eviction prevention, providing the proper resources so these families/individuals can connect with these agencies to help improve their overall health.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Acuña for Constable.

Sincerely,

Lane R. Santa Cruz

Lane Santa Cruz, Ph.D.
City of Tucson Council Member, Ward 1

Kristin McRay

Kristin McRay
Community Infrastructure Manager,
Council Staff, Ward 1

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 11/27/24 *OR*

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jim Byrne and I am an educator in TUSD. Currently, I am the President of the Tucson Education Association. I am writing this Letter of Recommendation for Gerard Acuña. I have known Mr. Acuña for over 10 years and have always been impressed with his honesty and reliability. As a young man who spent time at the B.I.C.A.S. bike shop, everybody who met him remarked about his composure and maturity. Gerard was a solid support for his friends and especially his family. He was often the caretaker of younger siblings and younger friends. One could always count on Gerard to do the right thing, make the right decision.

It is not surprising that Gerard has pursued a role in public service and one specifically one that aims to protect families in vulnerable situations. When I asked him about the duties and responsibilities of Constable, he shared his vision of providing the proper resources and education to families going through the legal perceiving of an eviction with an emphasis on making sure single mothers, the elderly and veterans, receive the proper information with community resources, government agencies to help them. What really struck me is Mr. Acuña's desire to keep families together and prioritize issuance of protective orders in cases of imminent harm like domestic violence.

It is clear that Gerard has learned the policies and procedures necessary to serve in this role and transform it into one with an equity and justice mindset. Residents of Pima County would be well served if Gerard Acuña is appointed a Constable.

Thank you for your time,

Jim Byrne

NOV 27 24 PM 02:24 PC CLK DF BD 26

Carlyn Arteaga

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nov 26th, 2024

To:

Whom It May Concern

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Tucson, AZ

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Gerard Acuña for the position of Constable in Justice Precinct 9. I have known Gerard since he was a young teenager, when I worked for BICAS Community Bike Shop and Education Center, where he used to come in with his friends. From the very beginning I could see that Gerard was a leader, as he acted like an older brother to many of the other boys, and would come in and help younger kids earn their bikes and then help fix them up at our shop.

From there, Gerard quickly became an ongoing youth volunteer, often helping with events such as Cyclovia and BICAS' Annual Art Auction. He also spent several years volunteering as a Ride Instructor for the Ochoa Bike Club, which BICAS operates in partnership with the John Valenzuela Youth Center (JVYC). After a couple of years of consistent and commendable volunteer service, BICAS Youth Programs invited Gerard to be on the cohort of youth we brought to Seattle to attend the National Youth Bike Summit, which is the youth arm of the national advocacy campaign for mobility justice. There, Gerard was able to meet young people from all over the country and better understand how our efforts in Tucson are connected to a wider movement for transportation justice and community care. Gerard attended the Youth Bike Summit a second time the following year.

Gerard's commitment to community is clear. He has seen firsthand the struggles that working families in Tucson face and I believe he will work hard to fulfill the duties of Constable while also taking into consideration the human equation.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me again if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Carlyn Arteaga

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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November 21, 2024

Melissa Manriquez
Pima County Clerk of the Board
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 100
Tucson, AZ 85701

Esteemed Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Gerard Acuna-Schultz to the position of Pima County Constable, Justice Precinct 9. My name is Robin Redondo and I have been in the field of education for the past 30 years. I had the pleasure of teaching Gerard during my time at Las Artes Arts and Education, a GED training program in South Tucson. Of the many students I have had over the past 30 years of my career, Gerard was one of my favorites. Gerard is intelligent, kind and compassionate towards other people.

Gerard was well liked by the other teachers as well as the other students at our school. He was inquisitive and curious about what was happening in the world around him and enjoyed looking at both sides of an issue to determine what was fair for everyone involved. I mainly taught Language and Social Studies and Gerard loved to discuss everything. During our time together, he was very community minded at our school, always focusing on helping other people. He was eager to be of assistance to not only his own family, but to other students who were struggling. He was truly a positive example, easily demonstrating leadership skills with a concerned yet objective viewpoint. It was easy to see that he could be successful at any endeavor he attempted.

Having witnessed Gerard's commitment and passion to his campaign for this office, as well as how he conducts himself with his family and community, I believe he would be an excellent choice for Constable. It is my belief that Gerard will bring dignity and compassion to the office and would do his best to execute the duties of the Constable in such a way as to lift our community members who need it the most. Having witnessed first-hand Gerard's commitment to education and personal growth, I know he will take the lessons he learned from the mentorship of Colette Philip, retired county Constable and continue to build the skills necessary to carry out the duties of Constable.

Should you have any questions or need for clarification, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or through email at: [REDACTED]

Warm Regards,
Robin Redondo

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November 27, 2024

Paul Eckerstrom
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N. Stone Ave., 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

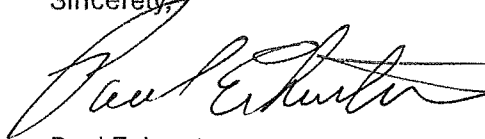
Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Gerard Acuna to the vacancy for the position of Constable in Justice Precinct 9. I met Mr. Acuna last year when he talked to me about running in the Democratic Primary as a write in candidate after the incumbent did not get the requisite petition signatures. Since I am the 1st Vice Chair of the Arizona Democratic Party and an attorney, he wanted my advice and support.

After I learned that he really wanted this difficult job and that he wanted to emulate Constable Bennett Bernal by helping people connect to housing services, who have been served with eviction notices, I gave him my advice and support. He, unfortunately, fell short of the high number of write-in votes necessary to make the general election ballot.

I strongly recommend Mr. Acuna for the position of Constable in Justice Precinct 9. He wants this difficult job and he wants to help people find new housing when they are served with eviction notices. That is the type of person we need in public service.

Sincerely,



Paul Eckerstrom

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