



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 2, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher 
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information from the November 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Agenda Item 19 – Pima County Constables**

At the November 15, 2022 Board meeting, Agenda Item 19 was continued to the December 6 Board meeting. Vice-Chair Grijalva asked for additional information pertaining to the Pima County Constables. I followed-up with Presiding Constable Lake-Wright and asked him for additional information:

- 1) Question - Is it true that Constables' workloads have been on a steady decline for the last five years? Our understanding is that some Constables deliver 20-25 sets of papers per month.

It is true that some Constables serve less papers than others. The outlying areas (Justice Precincts (JP)-1, JP-7 and JP-10, & Ajo JP-3) serve less papers than the metro precincts (JP's 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9). Justice Precinct's 2, 6, 8, and 9 serve the mid-town area and receive the most papers (sometimes more in a day than the outlying JP's receive in a month).

Even with a full contingent of Constables, the disparity of workload will still be a fact of life. The midtown area Constables easily work 40+ hours a week just due to the sheer number of papers. Outlying areas have more travel time between papers than metro areas, so even with less papers, it takes time. Outlying Constables frequently assist the metro areas with papers when necessary and able. Most Constables work at least 40 hours a week, but each control their own schedules.

- 2) Question - Would each Deputy Constable have to have the same expensive training and outfitting as Constables?

Deputy Constables would have MORE Law Enforcement training than an elected Constable as Deputies are required to be Arizona Peace

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Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) certified and elected officials are not.

- 3) Question - What is the training and or oversight of the Deputy Constables?

Training of Deputies would maintain AZPOST certification standards as well as annual Constable specific training with the Arizona Constable Association (ACA), therefore to a higher standard than what is required of an elected. As County employees, Deputy Constable hours would be tracked and managed as per County policies. Administrative oversight would be the responsibility of the Presiding Constable. Deputies would also be bound by the same canons of the ACA and Constable Ethics Standards and Training Board.

- 4) Question - Will there be a full contingent of Constables by January 1, 2023? When staffed, how many hours on average do the Constables work weekly or monthly?

Deputy Constables would work primarily in the Mid-town area, where the need is greatest. Additionally, since Constables are up for election every few years, there tends to be a turnover and job tenure is never guaranteed. As County employees, Deputy Constables have the ability to provide a running knowledge of the office throughout the changes of elected officials - which would provide more stability in creating/maintaining standards and flow of operations. This is very akin to Sheriff Deputies who remain in position regardless of who is elected as Sheriff.

Deputy Constables would be able to assist/back up areas that are not currently covered due to time off, injury, sickness, or turnover. It takes time to train a new Constable before they are ready to operate alone, and depending on prior experience before being elected - even more time before they truly and fully understand all the job requires/entails. Deputy Constables can assist in ensuring a smooth transition.

JKL/dym

- c: The Honorable William Lake-Wright, Presiding Constable, Pima County Constable's Office
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator