



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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August 30, 2018

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Pima County Supervisors:

I am writing you this letter in support of retaining Stonegarden grant funding for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

It is my understanding that there have been concerns associated with this grant ranging from the potential that Stonegarden activities might go towards immigration enforcement to worries that the grant contributes to unnecessary increases in the Pima County Jail population. In an absolutist sense, it would be inaccurate to claim *no* undocumented persons are ever arrested or that *none* of those arrested during Stonegarden operations ever end up in the Pima County Jail.

The bottom line, however, is that there are some criminals, mostly in our county lawfully, but also some who are undocumented, who need to be arrested and incarcerated. This includes those involved in trafficking drugs, committing violent crimes, or engaging in serious gang activity that harms or exploits others.

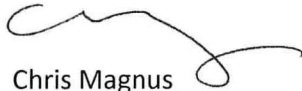
Even if Stonegarden funding were to go away, the Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department, and other policing agencies in Pima County would still need to address drug crimes, focus attention on crime hot spots, address neighborhood concerns associated with gang activity, and deal with issues such as human trafficking. Stonegarden funding simply provides us with more resources to tackle these problems. I think our residents appreciate that this grant allows us to spend more time in problem areas confronting the very issues that frustrate and frighten them the most.

I don't believe the Sheriff's Department or our department engage in any enforcement activities associated with Stonegarden that are outside our established protocols related to immigration or jail bookings. While I think both our agencies can do more to deflect a range of individuals away from jail, I don't believe this has anything to do with Stonegarden enforcement. Stonegarden is simply a "value added" proposition for our jurisdictions.

The Tucson Police Department has been careful to ensure Stonegarden grant funding is never used to engage our agency in doing immigration-specific enforcement. I am confident the Pima County Sheriff shares this commitment. Both Sheriff Napier and I have consistently disavowed associating our agencies with a 287-g type program that engages local law enforcement officers in immigration enforcement. We both believe this is a federal responsibility. I think this is one of the reasons we are comfortable accepting Stonegarden funds. Nothing about this program requires us to work in a manner contrary to our department mission and policies.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this issue. Please reach out to me if you have any additional concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Magnus", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Magnus
Chief of Police

CM:kr