



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mark D. Napier, Sheriff

1750 East Benson Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85714-1758

Phone: (520) 351-4600 • Fax: (520) 351-4622 • www.pimasheriff.org

August 30, 2018

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for the privilege to have my remarks about the Stonegarden grant and the Pima County Sheriff's Department read for the record since I am out of town at a previously scheduled meeting. My comments reflect my nearly 33 years of service as a Pima County Deputy Sheriff.

I applaud the Board and County Administrator for exercising exceptional due diligence in their pursuit of clarifying the Pima County Sheriff Department's obligations connected to the acceptance of the Stonegarden grant funds.

The Sheriff has addressed all of the concerns that the Board of Supervisors have so aptly expressed so that it is now clear that there is no intent that our deputies will be utilized in any capacity to enforce federal immigration law.

Clearly, the dysfunctional, irrational and hyperpartisan failure of Congress to adequately address continuing national immigration challenges is not the responsibility of the Pima County Sheriff. The Pima County Sheriff's Department does not have the manpower, authority or budget to act as federal officers nor should they be brought in to address the shortfalls of the federal government. I am Hispanic and in my Pima County law enforcement service spanning over four separate decades, I am extremely proud to have served within a workforce that is reflective of the community demographics and continues to exhibit professionalism, compassion and citizen-friendly community programs while treating all persons with dignity and respect as we "keep the peace".

As you know, the Stonegarden grants are meant to enhance cooperation and connectivity among border law enforcement agencies where there are many challenges in policing, from urban centers to remote desert wilderness areas. From infrastructure to enhanced communications, sharing of intelligence and interagency collaboration, there remains much to be done which can be accelerated with the Stonegarden grant program.

I am confident that my fellow Pima County deputies and our department will stay out of the politics of immigration, and instead, stay focused on the mission of local law enforcement, which is supported by the Board of Supervisors and memorialized in Arizona law.

I therefore respectfully request that you approve the acceptance of the Stonegarden grant since it will benefit our department and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Carmona".

Deputy Sheriff Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
Special Advisor to the Sheriff
17th Surgeon General of the United States

cc: The Honorable Mark Napier, Sheriff of Pima County
Mr. C. H. Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator