



# PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Chris Nanos, Sheriff**

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**AGENDA MATERIAL**

DATE 7/11/23 ITEM NO. RA16

July 10, 2023

Honorable Chair Adelita Grijalva and  
Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11th Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701

**RE: Pima County Sheriff's Department Budget Deficit**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members Pima County Board of Supervisors:

I offer my apologies to you and the Board for not being able to attend your last meeting. Since then, I have reviewed the recorded meeting and understand the concerns that were raised.

First, I am appreciative of the Board's acknowledgement of the inflationary pressures that have impacted everyone. However, it is important to note that inflation alone is not the reason the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) is forecasting a \$3.0 million budget deficit as of June 30, 2023.

There has been a series of Board actions related to personnel costs that have impacted our Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 budget. These actions were supported by the Sheriff and the County Administrator and were taken for good reason. Those financial decisions are captured in the chart below:

<b>Description of Unfunded Personnel Costs and Reduction to PCSD Budget</b>	<b>Impact to PCSD Budget</b>
Benefit costs for the State's retention for deputies & COs	\$ 500,000.00
7.5% raises for COs and Corrections Sgts	\$ 850,000.00
Elimination of deputy and CO trainee pay rates	\$ 500,000.00
<b>Total unfunded:</b>	<b>\$ 1,850,000.00</b>
<b>Two-month vacancy saving reduction:</b>	<b>\$ 1,456,354.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$3,306,354.00</u></b>

As you can see, the combined costs for the state retention benefits, the 7.5% raises for corrections staff, the elimination of the trainee rates, and the Board's reduction of more than \$1.4 million in vacancy savings totals just over \$3.3 million. While I am grateful for and believe the staff pay and employer related expenditures benefit PCSD, those decisions were never funded. When these items are added to the \$1.4 million that would have normally been part of the PCSD budget, they happen to total just over \$3.0 million—virtually equal to the deficit PCSD now faces.

I support this Board's actions and acknowledge its authority to make these decisions—in this case several have translated to benefit my staff and directly impact retention in a positive manner. However, today as we reconcile those numbers and see the correlation between deficit and unfunded Board actions, I simply ask: am I over budget, or am I underfunded?

JUL 10 23 PM 5:03 PC CLK (CF RD)

Sheriff Nanos' Letter to the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
RE: *Pima County Sheriff's Department Supplemental Budget*  
July 10, 2023  
Page 2

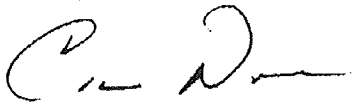
To further perpetuate the removal of vacancy savings only compounds the problem. For FY 23/24, this Board once again has removed from my approved budget \$2.1 million in vacancy savings. Additionally, by denying my supplemental request of \$2.3 million for projected needs in supplies and services, along with the removal of \$2.1 million from my approved budget has now placed me in a \$4.4 million hole before the fiscal year even started.

Supervisor Bronson you are correct – actions do have consequences...It is for these reasons I ask the Board to reconsider their actions and at a minimum return the \$2.1 vacancy savings back into my FY 23/24 budget.

The employees of this department have done exceptionally well considering the fiscal challenges they face. I value them and thank them, as I'm sure you do as well, but to ask them to find a way around a \$4.4 million hole is somewhat unfair.

I look forward to attending your meeting tomorrow and to further developing a collaborative working relationship with this Board, rooted in good communication. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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

Chris Nanos  
Sheriff of Pima County

CN:cgv

c: Jan Leshner, Pima County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works and Economic Development  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, for Health and Community Services  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator for County Operations Administration  
Monica Perez, Chief of Staff