



**PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
3950 S. COUNTRY CLUB, STE 100 • TUCSON AZ 85714-2056

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August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To the Honorable Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As an eye surgeon with extensive surgical trauma experience, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of penetrating and perforating eye injuries to the globe (eyeball). Almost 100% of these types of eye injuries result in significant long term, permanent visual loss.

During this summer, Americans engaged in peaceful protests have been blinded by the use of rubber bullets fired at the face.

While classified as non-lethal, they are not non-blinding. These life-altering eye injuries are a common result of urban warfare, rioting and crowd dispersion. We have seen it around the world, and we now see it in the United States.

Following numerous serious injuries during this summer, the American Academy of Ophthalmology has called on domestic law enforcement officials to immediately end the use of rubber bullets to control or disperse crowds of protesters. The Academy of Ophthalmology formally requests physicians, public health officials and the public to condemn this practice.

Americans have the right to speak and congregate publicly and should be able to exercise that right without the fear of blindness. You shouldn't have to choose between your vision and your voice.

Whereas the Pima County Board of Health is an advisory committee to the Pima County Board of Supervisors and is tasked with the responsibility of protecting the health of all citizens of Pima County:

We, The Pima County Board of Health recommend that the Pima County Board of Supervisors condemn the use of any types of rubber bullets in all cases of law enforcement in Pima County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Horwitz".

Paul R. Horwitz, M.D.  
President,  
Pima County Board of Health

RECEIVED  
AUG 17 2020  
PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Handwritten initials, possibly "PH", in black ink.