

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 5-10-22 ITEM NO. BH 10

Bernadette Russell

From: Anissa Ramirez
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 2:24 PM
To: COB_mail
Cc: Maria Klucarova; Jennifer Cabrera
Subject: FW: Pima County Budget Meeting Sheriff's Dept funding

From: Lois Hama <l1962barber@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 1:53 PM
To: District3 <District.3@pima.gov>
Cc: Caroline Vargas <Caroline.Vargas@sheriff.pima.gov>; Nick Weigel <Nick.Weigel@pima.gov>
Subject: Pima County Budget Meeting Sheriff's Dept funding

MAY 09 2022 PM 02:51 POC CLK OF ED

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing today to make sure those individuals who are tasked with making decisions on the budget know that there are good people living out here in Diamond Bell Ranch neighborhood. Our community pays taxes just like other communities do and feel we should be allotted the same services other communities are receiving. Although we live 35 miles southwest of Tucson in what we refer to as the forgotten community we enjoy the solitude that this distance brings. Unfortunately, not all moving to the area for solitude want to play by the rules. We have three major issues plaguing our area.

1. We have practically zero policing in our area. That allows crime to rise and puts people at risk. It allows Illegal immigrants to walk freely through our neighborhoods and traffickers to never worry about running into a sheriff. The drug problems are also on the rise with addicts sometimes scaling fences to get into yards to see what they can steal. We have a nice alarm system in our home but with officers more than 45 minutes away it becomes useless as the alarm is just a visual deterrent. Criminals love it out here while home owners continue to suffer the consequences of the policing void.

2. Zoning violations are skyrocketing. People are moving to our beautiful neighborhood to live in makeshift camps, tents, RV's and even in cars. Sometimes as squatters and other times as landowners just wanting to live on the cheap. There are ZERO septic systems being installed in the vast majority of these properties which presents the county with almost certain environmental issues that one would think the state would have major concerns with. We have reported as many of these code violators as possible to the county's enforcement team but with four inspectors allocated to the entire county they are simply overwhelmed. I do want to thank Sharon Bronson's office who is now working with the county Inspectors to try and slow this issue through prioritizing methods. More policing could help to prevent this from growing as rapidly as it has over the past couple of years. The people who are breaking the rules also understand the police presence is non-existent. This brings more of the wrong kind of neighbors to our area. Remember, these "people" are paying little to no taxes to support the county.

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 5-9-22 BR

3. The border crisis has gotten worse within our neighborhood. We understand that to a certain extent this is not the county's problem. We personally witness several illegal pickups per week. We have risked our safety to try and move this illegal activity out of our backyard. Border Patrol has been actively working alongside us to help. We feel if more sheriff's patrolled the area the traffickers might think twice. Criminals of any type want to avoid law enforcement. If we had regular sheriff's patrols in the area this would be one more tool in the fight to curtail human and drug smuggling.

Bottom line is we as a community are tired of hearing excuses. We had officers stationed out here in the Three Points area a couple of years ago but were moved to Vail under Sheriff Nanos direction. The county needs to take note of the serious issues and work to protect and serve this area just as it does other areas of the county.

Regards,

Jeffrey & Lois Hamma

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