



PHOENIX LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association of Phoenix Police Officers Since 1975

July 21, 2016

Chief Joe Yahner
Phoenix Police Department
620 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Chief Yahner:

Please let this letter serve as notice of PLEA's concerns relating to the increased level of violence being encountered by police across the nation.

As you are well aware, five Dallas Police Officers were senselessly murdered while protecting a protest in the downtown Dallas area on July 7. Only days later, three Louisiana police officers were gunned down while responding to a call.

Incidents such as this, combined with ramped up citizen protests in major cities across America to include Phoenix, have understandably raised concern with regard to officer safety.

Other agencies across the country, to include other local agencies here in the Valley, have instituted a practice of doubling up patrol officers.

In order to address increasing safety concerns, PLEA believes it is imperative to allow officers to ride as two man units if they wish to do so. While we understand concerns with manpower and staffing, we also understand that these were not problems created by PD management or the rank and file. Unfortunately, rank and file cops are the ones bearing the brunt of the stress associated with these increased threats.

The responsibility for allowing the dangerously low staffing levels to occur (still approx. 600 bodies down) lies squarely at the feet of the City Manager the Mayor and the City Council.

While citizens may have to wait a bit longer for service, we believe, in light of the current conditions that we find ourselves in on a national level, that officer safety comes ahead of response times and two man units are a necessity.

PLEA respectfully requests a written response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Ken Crane
PLEA President