



PHOENIX LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association of Phoenix Police Officers Since 1975

Press Release

October 13, 2016

Re: PLEA Endorsement of Sheriff Joe Arpaio

In the last few days, PLEA has received questions from media outlets regarding our endorsement of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

The PLEA Board made a decision several months ago to endorse Sheriff Arpaio. It was well known at the time the endorsement was given that there was an ongoing federal court case that could potentially result in criminal charges.

Our Endorsement Stands

The Arizona Police Association (APA) has also endorsed Sheriff Arpaio. The APA is a statewide group of which PLEA is a member. The APA has a combined membership of over 12,000 law enforcement members from across the state to include federal partners in the Border Patrol.

PLEA, through its board of trustees, made a decision to endorse Sheriff Arpaio based on his consistent support of issues important to rank and file police officers.

Sheriff Arpaio was the only command level police official in the state to stand with rank and file cops at the legislature in support of a bill of rights for police officers.

Sheriff Arpaio was instrumental in supporting public safety across the state, at the request of rank and file officers, in defeating Prop 487, a pension reform measure driven by out of state dark money interests that, if passed, would have had a devastating impact on pension benefits for public safety statewide.

PLEA exists to represent and protect the interests of rank and file Phoenix police officers. One facet of that representation is standing up to protect the rights of officers who find themselves accused of misconduct, both administrative and criminal. We do not stay in business by taking a cut and run approach at the first sign of adversity.

PLEA has always been a proponent of due process and the legal concept of innocent till proven guilty. These concepts apply to everyone, even law enforcement officers regardless of rank.