



PHOENIX LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association of Phoenix Police Officers Since 1975

January 31, 2017

Mr. Greg Stanton
Mayor, City of Phoenix
200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Mayor Stanton,

I saw your recent comments made on January 25, 2017, in regard to President Trump's executive orders. Your comments are of great concern.

"Today the president unleashed a divisive attack on Latinos in Phoenix and around the country.

The president's executive orders will not make us safer, but instead will incite fear and chaos for Latinos and immigrants alike. But be assured: We will fight the federal government's attempt to turn the Phoenix Police Department into a mass deportation force.

Building a wall will only tear our economy down and damage relationships with Mexico that today support 100,000 Arizona jobs.

Despite today's unsettling news – and with the anticipation of more harmful policies to come from this Administration – Phoenix will remain a welcoming and diverse city that strives every day to treat residents with dignity and respect, no matter who you are, who you love or where you come from."

To say I was disappointed would be an understatement.

Please explain, how securing our southern border is a divisive attack? How is enforcing the law a divisive attack? Is governing a country according to the rule of law and expecting those who come here to abide by the same, a divisive attack? Why do you shackle a people group and culture with a federal crime that, like any other illegal activity, is based upon choice and not dictated by skin color?

Frankly, your statements rise to the level of fear mongering and ethnic bias. Why is it that the Phoenix PD has been able to consistently, successfully and constitutionally partner with federal law enforcement entities such as DEA, ATF, FBI and US Postal Inspectors, but over the years have been routinely discouraged from partnering with ICE and Border Patrol via harmful policies and political positions? Your comments indict the police department and police officers based on conduct you believe may occur.

As police officers that man the front lines with the goal of equal treatment under the law, it appears easy for some liberal politicians ensconced in a 12th floor office in city hall to make statements that only serve to pander to selective and elite voting blocks.

The threat of terrorist attack is more real today in America than it has ever been. As one of four southern border states, we are literally on the front lines in the war on terror, narcotics trafficking and human smuggling. Our porous border is an open invitation and an open gateway to those who would do us harm. The Arizona border has only gotten more dangerous since PLEA and the Border Patrol gave you a first-hand tour at the start of your first mayoral campaign.

Our men and women in law enforcement deserve more from a Mayor than someone who would trade the safety of our community partners, our PLEA members, and our police personnel for political pandering.

As a sovereign nation, do we not have every right to protect our borders and screen those who enter to protect the security of our citizens and our economic infrastructure?

I would ask you to take a moment to remember the following Phoenix Police Officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice at the hands of illegal aliens: Mark Atkinson, Daryl Raetz, George Cortez, Ken Collings, Ignacio Conchos, John Davis, Nick Erfle, and Shane Figueroa. And also, those officers who were seriously injured and harmed in the line of duty by those who were in the country in violation of Federal immigration law: Brian Wilbur, Brett Glidewell, Jerry Kilgore, Jim Kliewer, Robert Sitek, and Jason Schechterle.

The officers listed above were either killed or injured by people who should have never been in the country to begin with but were because they chose to take advantage of open border and sanctuary city policies.

In addition to law enforcement injuries and deaths, there have been myriads of citizens nationwide who have been victimized, murdered, raped, kidnapped and assaulted at the hands of illegal aliens. Many of these illegals were previously deported felons that returned through the open revolving door that has been our southern border for the last three decades.

Border security is and always will be of great importance to the men and women who daily, man the front lines. Your commitment to sanctuary city policies does nothing to help matters, improve quality of life or improve safety to my members' work environment.

On January 20, 2017, the vast majority of the men and women in law enforcement nationwide heaved a collective sigh of relief knowing that we finally got a Commander in Chief who understands the rule of law, understands the importance of protecting our country and is not willing to bow to political correctness when it comes to national security and border security.

Mr. Mayor, I would ask you to reconsider your statements but I know that making such a request would simply fall on deaf ears. Stay safe in your 12th floor office, behind the private security guards at the "border" (doors) to City Hall, with your armed security detail that escorts you to and from home and to your appointments every day.

My guess is it would be too much to ask you to side with the men and women in law enforcement and the citizens of Phoenix over people who choose to enter the country illegally. The rank and file cops who do the heavy lifting every day will take it from here and we'll keep running to the gun fights. It's what we do.

Regards,



Ken Crane
President,
Phoenix Law Enforcement Association