

Thank you, Mayor Stanton and fellow Council members, for allowing me to appear before you to address this issue. I'm Jim Edmondson and am a City of Phoenix resident of District One. I'm also a 30-year veteran, retired Lieutenant with the Phoenix Police Department. For the record, I oppose any recommendations or action for a second party review of the actions of the Phoenix Police Department.

The Phoenix Police Department did an outstanding job covering the Presidential rally and protest last week. I commend Chief Jeri Williams, her administrative staff and all of the officers, supervisors and civilian personnel that worked so hard to ensure that this was a successful, peaceful event.

I have expertise in this area. Most of my 30 years as an officer, sergeant and lieutenant was being a member of the Tactical Response Unit, which is the unit responsible for dignitary protection and crowd control of such high-profile events as this. I also was a TRU instructor that trained personnel and certified them. I was downtown not attending the rally, but being with Phoenix P.D. personnel during this event. I did so for moral support and was able to see and talk to many of the officers and supervisors, many that I had worked with over the years. I got to see first-hand much of the activity of this event. On this evening, the Tactical Response Unit did an outstanding job, textbook in some instances, much of this could have been made into a training film.

There were only 4 arrests, one a non-related warrant arrest. No fatalities, injuries, massive property damage, burning buildings or days of riots, which seems to be the trend these days for these events. In short, this was an overwhelming success and I was very proud of my former unit and department. One controversial incident occurred, involving an obvious agitating anti-police subject, who was actively throwing gas back at the police, who was struck in the groin by a gas projectile. This was a freak inadvertent accident, and the primary cause of this, was this subject being very close to officers, attempting IMHO to injure them. He was part of the problem. Now he and the 2-3% of the most vile anarchist radical police hating folks are demanding a third party review and you Mayor and a few others are allowing this to happen. Supposedly this is all in the name of transparency. However, the only thing that is transparent, is the total lack of support for the Police Department by you and few others.

The Phoenix Police Department is quite capable of reviewing all use of force incidents, and it has in this case and there were no policy violations or wrong doing. Yet you are not satisfied with this, and along with a very few others are pushing for this review by an entity from California, probably made up of politically correct attorneys such as yourself, with zero police expertise credibility, in search of IMHO a reason to find fault with something, to please a crazed, hateful, violent group of folks who despise the Police.

This Sir, is a slap in the face to Police Chief Jeri Williams, her administration and all of the hard-working officers, supervisors and civilians, especially those who worked the event last week. This is also an incredible waste of 45-50 thousand dollars of our tax payer money. If you want to spend money, why not start working on filling the near 700 vacancies currently being held by the Police Department. As members of the City Council, all of you will soon partake in a vote. Please do not vote for a slap in the face to all of the hard-working members of the Phoenix Police Department. Too my brothers and sisters on the Phoenix Police Department, especially those on the Tactical Response Unit, if the council permits this second party review to occur, and if they find some imagined fault, then it is time to put in transfers and leave TRU, which is a voluntary detail with inherent risks and dangers. Perhaps the next time we have such a huge event, maybe you Mayor along with the City Manager and Council can put on the riot gear, get out there for 12-14 hours and take that abuse and maybe take one for the team.