

My speech to Councilman Garcia and city council members in regards to the possible defunding of Phoenix Police. Thank you Phoenix Police for being there in my times of need.

Transcript:

My name is Alyssa Peralta and I live in District 8.

As a Hispanic woman, I am truly disappointed in you Councilman Garcia. In the midst of the unfortunate passing of Officer Carnicle, you remained silent but in light of society's current conflict involving Police, only then do you use your platform to convey your distaste for police. I emailed Councilman Garcia a few months ago regarding the Civilian Oversight board. In summary, his assistant relayed to me that Councilman Garcia wasn't against police just Police Brutality. His statement in his most recent post regarding Police says otherwise. He applauded the work of janitors, nurses, grocers but denounced Phoenix Police and in short, stated that Phoenix Police contribute nothing to the Phoenix Community in regards to safety.

I would like to pose a question to you Councilman Garcia. I live in one of your communities off of 28th street and Roosevelt. It is decorated with trash, ridden with crime, drag racing, loud parties and drugs. Did you respond to my 911 call when my drunk neighbors threatened and nearly physically assaulted my elderly grandparents and I for asking them to please turn their music down? It was 4 in the morning. Did you respond to the drive-by shooting that occurred on my street just seconds after my grandfather came inside from watering his plants? Did you respond to the subsequent shootings after that? Did you respond when the apartment complex on my street was charging the homeless population \$25 a day to rent a shed for housing and buckets for toileting? They would dump their trash, heroin spoons and feces-filled buckets on our street where children regularly ride their bikes.

Phoenix Police was present for all of it. Where were you? I've sent you numerous emails to bring this activity to your attention and you've responded to one and that was only to defend your position on Police. So shame on you for saying that they don't keep us safe and healthy. They were there in my greatest times of need. Where were you? Where were you when I feared for my life and my family's? I am a "brown" body as you refer to us as, where were you?

You use this platform for your own political agenda and to appease a small population of the Hispanic community but denounce the remainder of us that don't share a similar mindset as you. Our community is not safe. You've done nothing to benefit and improve the impoverished areas under your care. By supporting the defunding of police, you will be doing your communities a great disservice.

Before supporting the defunding of police, I challenge all of you, especially Councilman Garcia, to spend time in the high-crime, impoverished areas of the Phoenix community. Participate in a ride-along with Phoenix Police. Attend a CPA (Citizens Police Academy) meeting hosted at the Phoenix Police Academy in South Phoenix. Educate yourself on policing and experience it first-hand. I don't pretend that I could do your job. So don't try and pretend that you would know exactly what to do as a Police Officer.

On behalf of the Elsinore Community, we DO NOT support the defunding of police. We need Police in our communities because you've shown time and time again, that you are incapable of keeping us safe.

Thank you all for your time.