



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Lorna Romero

Lorna@elevatestrategiesaz.com

480-231-8930

July 13, 2020

Phoenix Law Enforcement Association Calls on Local Leaders to Denounce “Defund Police” Movement

Phoenix, AZ-- The Phoenix Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) Board of Trustees recently submitted letters to the Phoenix City Council urging them to take a public stance and support Phoenix Police Officers.

“As our community navigates through these turbulent times, it is more important than ever we come together to ensure we make Phoenix the best city in the country to live, work and play,” **the letter reads.** “Our communities need to be healthy and safe, and we need leaders that are dedicated to making this happen.”

“Recently, there have been calls to ‘Defund Police’ based on the false and offensive notion that all police, regardless of religion, ethnicity or gender are violent and racist,” **the letter continues.** “We are writing to ask you, as an elected leader of our great city, to stand with our officers. To ensure we are well-trained and well -equipped, and to publicly reject the “Defund Police” movement.”

Upon receiving the letter, a number of councilmembers submitted public statements in support of Phoenix Police Officers. PLEA applauds **Councilman Jim Waring, Councilman Sal DiCiccio, Councilwoman Deb Stark, Councilwoman Thelda Williams, and Councilman Michael Nowakowski** for standing with our officers for healthy and safe communities

PLEA has heard only silence from **Mayor Kate Gallego, Vice Mayor Betty Guardado, Councilmember Carlos Garcia and Councilmember Laura Pastor.**

“PLEA wants to partner with the Phoenix City Council to ensure communities are healthy and safe,” **said Michael “Britt” London, President of PLEA.** “We appreciate the Phoenix City

Councilmembers who have publicly supported our officers and encourage Mayor Gallego and the other members of the council to denounce the Defund Police movement.”

Recently, Chris Rutherford, son of fallen Phoenix Police Officer Paul Rutherford, launched an [online petition](#) urging local leaders to support law enforcement. The petition now has more than 2,500 signatures.

Statements of support from Phoenix City Council members are included below:

Councilmember Sal DiCiccio: “I’m going to stand behind our police officers 100% of the way. They are essential to the success of this city. We will work with you to make the city better but better is not defunding our police.”

Councilmember Jim Waring: “Our Phoenix officers do a terrific job and deserve thanks for their incredible efforts. They deal with problems most of us can only imagine in the toughest environment possible.”

Councilmember Thelda Williams: “The City of Phoenix has an outstanding Police Department, recognized nationally as a leader and a model in community based policing. I’m grateful for the work that they do and I work hard to support our officers by getting them the resources they need to protect our residents and themselves. It’s important that our officers are safe while they ensure the safety of our residents.”

Councilmember Deb Stark: “The Phoenix Police Department is comprised of the finest and utmost professional officers in the country. Our city is blessed with these men and women who protect us. We need to continue to support them as they support our city.”

Councilmember Michael Nowakowski: “As the Chair of the Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee, I want to thank the men and women of the Phoenix Police Department, who proudly wear their uniforms to serve and protect our residents and neighborhoods every single day.”

###

About PLEA:

The Mission of PLEA is to promote the positive role of the police profession. To protect and secure members’ rights and benefits through effective representation and professional relationships with the community and local, state, and national governments.