

Attachment A

CITIZEN'S PETITION TO PHOENIX CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Jeri Williams, has engaged in a widespread practice of politically motivated surveillance, violence, and arrests of social justice activists; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the Phoenix Police Department's Tactical Response Unit engaged in mass civil rights violations against attendees of an Anti-Trump rally that resulted in numerous serious injuries and the violent suppression of thousands of individuals' free speech rights; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Police Department's Tactical Response Unit is responsible for creating, keeping, and sharing a Neo-Nazi inspired "challenge coin" to commemorate and celebrate police violence against Phoenix residents expressing their First Amendment rights at the Anti-Trump Rally; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Doug McBride oversees and manages the Tactical Response Unit;

WHEREAS, United States District Court records indicate that Chief Jeri Williams and Phoenix Police command staff has known about the Nazi-inspired challenge coin since at least August 2019, when she was deposed under oath as part of the 2017 Anti-Trump Rally civil rights lawsuit;

WHEREAS, the Phoenix City Council failed to act to hold Chief Jeri Williams and Phoenix Police Department's Tactical Response Unit accountable for physical harm and civil rights violations in 2017, thereby permitting such unconstitutional conduct to continue unchecked;

WHEREAS, Phoenix Police officers engaged in the political prosecution of Black Lives Matter organizer, Jamaar Williams in 2019 by lying, in police reports, Form IVs submitted to the Court, and under oath, about Mr. Williams' purportedly assaulting two Phoenix police officers; and

WHEREAS, the Maricopa County Superior Court dismissed the criminal case against Jamaar Williams for lack of probable cause;

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams lied to Phoenix City Council about the evidence that existed to successfully prosecute Jamaar Williams; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix City Council did not hold the officers who lied to prosecute a political opponent accountable for their unconstitutional activities

WHEREAS, Phoenix City Council instead retaliated against Jamaar Williams and removed him from his committee assignments related to police reform in the City of Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix City Council's continued failure to hold Chief Jeri Williams and the Phoenix Police Department accountable for mistreatment of protesters and political opponents resulted in continued harm;

WHEREAS, Phoenix Police officers used unconstitutional and excessive force, including tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and bean bag rounds, against non-violent protesters on May 28, 2020 - May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this use of force was particularly dangerous during a deadly pandemic spread through the expulsion of respiratory droplets because tear gas and pepper-spray cause individuals to expel respiratory droplets by coughing and sneezing; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Police officers illegally arrested 354 individuals protesting the murders of George Floyd and Dion Johnson between May 28, 2020 - May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many of these arrests were secured using illegal cut-and-paste probable cause statements; and

WHEREAS, many of these cases were dismissed for lack of probable cause; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix City Council refused to hold the officers and command staff involved in the "cut-and-paste" operation responsible; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams and Phoenix Police command staff allowed Tactical Response Unit officers to be trained and coached by the Maricopa County Attorney's First Responder's Bureau; and

WHEREAS, after the training by MCAO, Maricopa Superior Court records show officers within the Tactical Response Unit made numerous false arrests and lied in police reports, Form IVs, and under oath about "crimes" allegedly committed

by individuals protesting police violence in order to punish Black Lives Matter protesters;

WHEREAS, Tactical Response Unit Sergeant Doug McBride offered false and misleading testimony to a Grand Jury about a fictional gang “ACAB” in order to punish Black Lives Matter protesters; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams has engaged in a pattern of misrepresenting her knowledge of the Department’s tactic and pattern of engaging in political prosecutions;

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams misrepresented her knowledge of the Neo-Nazi inspired coin to the residents of Phoenix similar to the way in which she claimed to be unaware of commemorative tattoos among officers while chief of police in Oxnard, CA; and

WHEREAS, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office dismissed fifteen protest cases “in the interest of justice”; and

WHEREAS, the remaining cases against protesters suffer from the same lack of evidence, evidence of police bias, and misconduct; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix City Council failed to pass and fund meaningful, independent investigatory civilian oversight of the Phoenix Police Department.

Pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 22 of the Phoenix City Charter, I, Heather Hamel, a citizen and resident of the City of Phoenix, hereby petition the Phoenix City Council to:

Launch an ethics investigation, independent of the Phoenix Police Department and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, into the policies and practices of the Tactical Response Unit and corresponding failure of leadership by Chief Jerri Williams and Phoenix Police command staff with respect to the aforementioned protests and events.