

Attachment A

CITIZEN PETITION TO CONSIDER USING SOCIAL MEDIA,

Under the Direction of the Public Information Office of the Phoenix Police Department for
"COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATES," as a Counterpart to "CRITICAL INCIDENT UPDATES" and a
Community Policing Dashboard to Track the Progress of "COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATES"
2018 NOV 14 PM 3: 17
CITY CLERK DEPT.

Submitted on November 14, 2018

REQUEST: The Citizen Petition I submit today requests the Mayor and City Council consider using social media, under the direction of the Public Information Office of the Phoenix Police Department (PPD), to provide public-facing, timely updates for stakeholders in community policing, which is "a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues" ("Community Policing Defined," www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf).

BACKGROUND: In May of this year, there was an issue which created a crisis in trust for the community as well as concern by law enforcement – a spike in number of officer-involved shootings (OISs), exceeding the annual OIS incident totals for 2015 and 2017 during the first five months. In June a study on this issue won Public Safety and Veterans Subcommittee (PSVS) approval, assuring that the PPD's top priority in ensuring the safety of both community and our officers would be addressed by "an in-depth analysis" (June 13, 2018, Public Safety and Veterans Subcommittee, "Emergency Request to Enter into an Agreement with the National Police Foundation for an Officer-Involved Shooting Study," Agenda Item No. 5.)

In August the Public Information Office began publishing individual "Critical Incident Updates" on the PPD Facebook Page. Five types of critical incidents included: officer-involved shootings (OISs), exceptional use-of-force, death or injury of an officer, in-custody deaths and incidents generating significant community concern. A dashboard on "Critical Incidents" is pending to chart data on incidents, according to Sergeant Vince Lewis, Public Information Officer.

Prior these updates, Officer-Involved Shootings were analyzed annually by the Tactical Review Committee, beginning in 2015 and semi-annually beginning with the Mid-Year Report of 2017. Prior to that, there was a 5-year report entitled "PPD Officer-Involved Shooting Review, 2009-2014."

Timely single-incident reports entitled "Critical Incident Updates" provided since July 14th by the PPD's Public Information Office, are not available for viewing on the PPD website and are only temporarily available on the PPD Facebook Page, but on the Nextdoor App they remain and are consecutively posted and can be found through "Search," typing in "Critical Incident Updates." Various "Message(s) from Police Chief Jeri Williams on an update on critical incidents" are also available for viewing using the search engine for "Critical Incident Updates."

There is no counterpart for transparency on community policing efforts, "those (strategies) that proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues." The PPD Strategic Plan, 2017-2019 contains goals on these efforts, that include promoting officer well-being and increasing legitimacy (Goals 4 and 5), but transparency on the status of achieving these is unavailable to the public. As Chief Williams states in her Strategic Plan, she believes "the community, the Phoenix Police Department and the City of Phoenix are One Team and the best way to achieve our long-term goals is to start the problem-solving process allowing us to find solutions that serve us all." "Community Policing Updates" would facilitate this process.

Spotlighting advances in community policing through social media could effectively build trust day by day and bring hope to citizens still struggling for answers for what they and the force can do to reduce the number of deadly use-of-force incidents.

Progress that could be tracked and upon completion “improve the chances of reducing the frequency of these deadly force encounters” are:

- a. The hiring of the **services of an on-site psychologist**
- b. Introduction of the **Early Intervention System software**
- c. Expansion of the **Body Worn Camera Program**
- d. **On-site staffing in January of 2019 of an ASU professor from the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety**, who will be conducting studies, that may include tracking the effect of the implementation of the expansion of body-worn camera system and the introduction of the Early Intervention System upon the number of officer-involved shootings
- e. Results of the **National Police Foundation for an Officer-Involved Shooting Study** on the spike of OISs in 2018
- f. Provision of **Implicit Bias and Cultural Competence Training** by the National Training Institute on Race and Equity
- g. The establishment of **Officer Wellness Programs and Personnel Resources** under Goal 4 of the Department’s Strategic Plan for 2017-2019
- h. The founding of **strategies to increase accountability, transparency, and best practices**, which is Goal 5, and
- i. The creation of a **Civilian Review Board** which was delegated one year ago to the Assistant City Manager and members of the PSVS

CONCLUSION: Our City’s current use of the Nextdoor App to communicate “Critical Incident Updates” has successfully increased transparency. Using the app to additionally spotlight “Community Policing Updates” could further build trust in our city, along with dashboards to update progress on reaching “Community Policing Goals” and to chart the number of “Officer-Involved Shootings.” For those outside our city, these updates and dashboards could be viewed in the proposed Transparency Section of the Police Website under “Supporting and Improving Officer Performance” and “Public Information, Reports & Oversight” respectively.

Our hopes for reducing the number of officer-involved shootings can only be raised as transparency rises on facts and implementation of solutions. Approval of use of social media for real-time updates for stakeholders in community policing will contribute a viable avenue for replacing fear with trust in our city.

Respectfully Submitted

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