

Attachment B – Addressing Inaccuracies in the Petition

“Phoenix Police Department officials failed to provide warning or official order to disperse the protesters prior to deploying rounds of chemical weapons, concussion grenades and flash grenades.”

- Announcements to the crowd were given at 7:15 p.m., 7:28 p.m., and intermittently between 8:00-8:25 p.m. to stop throwing items. At approximately 8:33 p.m. police deployed chemical agents and crowd control tactics in response to unlawful activities. Police may issue warnings/commands to disperse/stop unlawful activity; however for safety reasons, police do not announce or telegraph their tactical plans.

“Chemical weapons deployed by Phoenix Police on August 22, 2017 included, but were not necessarily limited to, the use of pepper bullets...”

- One of the chemical munitions used by the Police Department was pepper balls, not pepper bullets.

“The use of tear gas (Chloroacetophenone [CN]/2-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile [CS]) during warfare was banned as part of the 1993 Chemical Weapon Convention.”

- The 1993 Chemical Weapon Convention applies only during warfare and does not apply to law enforcement use within the U.S.

“Phoenix Police fired onto several medical tent areas and onto first aid volunteers treating injured protestors on the scene. Police riot units even shot pepper balls at a peaceful candlelight vigil held at St. Mary’s Basilica resulting in the injury of over a dozen elderly citizens.”

- There were no medical tents known of in the area. One unintended consequence was the movement of the airborne chemical munitions that permeated the grounds of St. Mary’s Basilica.

“Over 500 protesters, 250 of them City of Phoenix residents, have filed complaints against the Phoenix Police Department to Puente Arizona, Center for Neighborhood Leadership and the ACLU AZ.”

- To date, the Phoenix Police Department has received 10 complaints and 81 commendations reference the Aug. 22, 2017 protest. If attendees from the Aug. 22 event still wish to file a complaint, they can do so by contacting the Department’s Professional Standards Bureau (602) 262-4580 or online at: <https://www.phoenix.gov/police/commendation-complaint-form>.