

## **Attachment D**

### **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 (the "2017 Rally") that resulted in numerous serious injuries and the violent suppression of thousands of individuals' First Amendment 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 2017 Rally; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Phoenix City Council failed to hold Chief Jeri Williams, the Phoenix Police Department, and the 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 providing knowingly false information in police reports, Form IVs submitted to the Maricopa County Superior Court (the "Superior Court"), and under oath, falsely alleging that Mr. Williams assaulted two Phoenix police officers; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court dismissed the criminal case against Mr. Williams for lack of probable cause; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams provided false statements to the Phoenix City Council about the evidence that allegedly existed to legally prosecute Mr. Williams; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix City Council failed to hold its own law enforcement officials accountable for unconstitutionally misrepresenting facts in an effort to prosecute a perceived political opponent; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, this use of force was particularly dangerous during a deadly respiratory pandemic because tear gas and pepper-spray cause individuals to expel 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 28–31, 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, the Phoenix City Council refused to hold the Phoenix Police 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 Office ("MCAO") First Responders' Bureau; and

WHEREAS, after the training by MCAO, Superior Court records show officers within the Tactical Response Unit made numerous false arrests and provably false statements 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Chief Jeri Williams misrepresented her knowledge of the Neo-Nazi inspired “challenge coin” to the residents of Phoenix similar to the way in which she denied knowledge of commemorative tattoos among her subordinate law enforcement officers while she served as chief of police in Oxnard, CA; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2021, the MCAO dismissed fifteen protest cases “in the interest of justice”: and

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

WHEREAS, the Phoenix City Council failed to pass and fund meaningful, independent civilian oversight with investigative authority and discretion over the Phoenix Police Department.

PURSUANT TO Chapter IV, Section 22 of the Phoenix City Charter, I, William H. Knight, a citizen and resident of the City of Phoenix, hereby petition the Phoenix City Council to:

Establish enforceable guidelines and meaningful disciplinary measures to prevent law enforcement officials, at any level, from providing false information in Form IV probable cause statements, police reports, or under oath to secure criminal charges against protesters exercising their First Amendment rights.