



City of Phoenix

To: Jeri Williams
Police Chief

Date: August 28, 2017

From: Ed Zuercher
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Zuercher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Subject: EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICE RESPONSE ON AUGUST 22

What all members of the Phoenix Police Department accomplished on August 22 was notable. In an emotional atmosphere, our police officers showed professionalism in ensuring the safety and First Amendment rights of the community. There were no serious injuries or property damage and only four related arrests. The teamwork among your officers and all other City departments was a credit to their preparation. There is, though, significant community dialogue about how the final hour of the day unfolded.

As a follow-up to the event and to ensure public confidence in our Police Department, I am engaging an outside firm through the City Attorney to assess the preparation and response by the Phoenix Police Department to the events of August 22 surrounding President Trump's campaign rally in downtown Phoenix. Thank you in advance for the full cooperation of your office and the entire department to give unfettered access to all information on the preparation and response.

It is important to note that the vast majority of participants on August 22 in both the campaign rally and the protests outside were peaceful, prepared and civil. As we all know, at the end of the evening, the Phoenix Police Department engaged in crowd control tactics that involved pepper balls and tear gas due to a very small number of participants who became unruly. As stated before, there were no serious injuries or property damage, which is a tribute to both the police officers and the huge numbers of participants who conducted themselves with civility.

With the high-profile nature of the events and community concerns and support expressed, it is important to use outside expertise to add a layer of objective review in this situation. At my direction, the City Attorney is prepared to engage OIR Group, Inc., an experienced firm specializing in independent reviews of critical incidents and police tactics in a variety of police community interactions, to provide the City with an assessment of police interaction with the crowds on August 22 outside the Phoenix Convention Center. An item will be added to the August 30 Council agenda to contract with this firm. This review will take at least 90 days to complete and will be made public.

The City of Phoenix and its Police Department have always been willing to self-assess and learn from experience. I know you began a regular after-action review right away, per normal Phoenix Police Department procedures, and that should continue. The external review will be in addition to your after-action process.

Let me be clear, this review does not diminish the professionalism of our Phoenix Police officers. In fact, it will serve to strengthen the Phoenix Police Department and to transparently educate the community about the complexities of policing in a large city.

c: Mayor and City Council
Milton Dohoney, Jr.
Julie Watters
Penny Parrella
Kweilin Waller