Sheriff’s Department

Border Issues and Operation Stonegarden
Background Information

- **Pima County**
  - 9200 square miles
  - 125 miles of exposure to international border
  - Major drug and human trafficking corridor
  - Opioid Crisis – a national public health emergency
  - Methamphetamine increase and overdoses
  - 31 Border Counties in the United States
  - Pima County has the largest exposure to the International Border
  - About 500 sworn personnel
  - About 4000 Border Patrol personnel
Operation Stonegarden

- In place for about 14 years
- Provides federal funding for personnel and equipment
- Allows deployment of PCSD personnel in border and remote areas
- Provides equipment for use on Stonegarden operations and for overall county use
- This year, about $1.3 million
- Funds are increasing
- Many departments across the country are involved
Why Stonegarden is Important

• Funding allows us to patrol under-served and border areas
  • Need additional funding
  • Many remote areas of our county

• Drug and human trafficking interdiction/prevention
  • Criminal victimization of migrants
  • Public health crisis with opioids

• Equipment we otherwise would not have funding to acquire

• Response to migrants in distress
  • Harsh environmental conditions
  • 200 bodies a year

• Cooperation and leadership with our federal partners
Stonegarden Conditions

- PCSD has met all the conditions for the approval of the Stonegarden Grant
- We are better for the process
- Collaborative process
- Still pending Board Action
Progress

- New Racial Profiling Policy
  - Prior Policy
  - Policy key points
- Active Tracking of requests for Border Patrol
  - Vast majority are at the request of migrants
- First Sheriff to actively meet with ACLU and others regularly and openly on these issues
- Engagement with ACLU on annual training for personnel
- Working on involvement of ACLU and others for Border Sheriff’s Conference
- Better communication
- Enhanced understanding
Why PCSD Involvement is Critical

- Largest border county
- A voice at the table
  - Our voice, not from the other 30 border counties
- Stonegarden funding will not go away
- Washington DC on July 23
- Leverage with our federal partners
- Withdrawal has bad outcomes
  - More federal/state resources in our county
  - Reallocation of funds to others
  - Absence of clout in policy making bodies
  - No voice/input into operations
- Our County will be less safe and the plight of the undocumented will not be better served
- False assertion that if PCSD personnel are not involved things will be better
Closing

• No interest in proactive federal immigration enforcement
• No 287G program participation
• A reasonable voice on these issues to advance our concerns
• Must remain at the table... the head of the table
• Rhetoric from Washington DC is distressing to many
  • Our lack of appropriate participation does nothing to change that.. In fact, the opposite
• This is about public safety
  • Not political
  • Not partisan
• Progress is being made, let’s continue it
Questions
Thank you