



**Sheriff's Department**

# Sheriff's Department

Border Issues and Operation Stonegarden



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# 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



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# 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



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# 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**



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# 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



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# 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**



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# 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



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# 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**



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# Questions



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**Thank you**