

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

RESEARCH STAFF



TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

JASON THEODOROU
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH ANALYST
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
Telephone: (602) 926-3171

DATE: January 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Attached is the final report of the sunset review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, which was conducted by the Senate Government Committee of Reference.

This report has been distributed to the following individuals and agencies:

Governor of the State of Arizona
The Honorable Katie Hobbs

President of the Senate
Senator Warren Petersen

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Representative Ben Toma

Senate Members

Senator Jake Hoffman, Chair
Senator Wendy Rogers, Vice-Chair
Senator Eva Diaz
Senator David C. Farnsworth
Senator Juan Mendez
Senator Janae Shamp
Senator Priya Sundareshan
Senator Justine Wadsack

Arizona Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Auditor General
Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

Senate Resource Center
Senate Republican Staff
Senate Democratic Staff
Senate Research Staff

Office of the Chief Clerk
House Republican Staff
House Democratic Staff
House Research Staff

Senate Government Committee of Reference Final Report

Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Background

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 41-2953](#), the Joint Legislative Audit Committee assigned the sunset review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) to the Senate Government Committee of Reference and the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee of Reference.

In 2006, the Legislature established the AZDOHS to enhance the state's ability to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and other critical hazards. The direction, operation and control of the AZDOHS are the responsibility of the Director. The Director is appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. To be eligible for appointment as Director, a person must have a background or experience in one or more of the following areas: 1) public administration; 2) disaster response; 3) law enforcement; 4) business administration; or 5) cybersecurity.

The AZDOHS must: 1) adhere to all federal grant terms and conditions; 2) request appropriations or grants for homeland security purposes; 3) receive all awards granted to the state by the federal government for homeland security purposes; and 4) distribute monies to local jurisdictions and other organizations that may be eligible under federal regulations based on the criteria prescribed in the federal grant guidelines. Additionally, the AZDOHS must establish five councils, representing the north, east, south, west and central regions of Arizona. These regional advising councils must support and assist in implementing Arizona's comprehensive statewide risk assessment and an integrated regional approach to homeland security ([Laws 2006, Ch. 317](#); [A.R.S. Title 41, Ch. 41](#)).

In 2022, the Legislature transferred the administration of the Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office (Office) from the Arizona Department of Administration to the AZDOHS. The Office was established within the AZDOHS to serve as the strategic planning, facilitation and coordination office for information security in the state ([Laws 2022, Ch 50](#)).

The AZDOHS is statutorily set to terminate on July 1, 2024, unless legislation is enacted for its continuation ([A.R.S. § 41-3024.22](#)).

Committee of Reference Sunset Review Activity

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 41-2954](#), the Senate Government Committee of Reference held a public meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, to review and consider the AZDOHS 's responses to the statutorily-outlined sunset factors and receive public testimony.

Committee of Reference Recommendations

The Senate Government Committee of Reference recommended that the AZDOHS be continued for two years, until July 1, 2026.

Appendices

1. Meeting Notice
2. Minutes of the Senate Government Committee of Reference
 - a. Attachment A: Presentation by the AZDOHS
 - b. Attachment B: Handout from the AZDOHS
3. Chairperson's letter requesting the AZDOHS's response to sunset factors
4. The AZDOHS 's response to sunset factors

Interim agendas can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.azleg.gov/Interim-Committees>

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

INTERIM MEETING NOTICE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SENATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024011033>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opening Remarks
4. ~~Sunset Review of the Arizona Commerce Authority~~
 - ~~• Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General~~
 - ~~• Response by the Arizona Commerce Authority~~
 - ~~• Public Testimony~~
 - ~~• Discussion and Recommendations~~
5. ~~Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Administration~~
 - ~~• Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General~~
 - ~~• Response by the Arizona Department of Administration~~
 - ~~• Public Testimony~~
 - ~~• Discussion and Recommendations~~
4. Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security
 - Presentation by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
5. Sunset Review of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors
 - Presentation by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
6. Sunset Review of the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
 - Presentation by the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
7. Sunset Review of the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations
 - Presentation by the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations

8. Sunset Review of the State Personnel Board
 - Presentation by the State Personnel Board
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
9. Sunset Review of the Industrial Commission of Arizona
 - Presentation by the Industrial Commission of Arizona
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
10. Sunset Review of the Boiler Advisory Board
 - Presentation by the Boiler Advisory Board
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
11. Sunset Review of the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
 - Presentation by the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
12. Sunset Review of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
 - Presentation by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
13. Sunset Review of the Arizona Commerce Authority
 - Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General
 - Response by the Arizona Commerce Authority
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
14. Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Administration
 - Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General
 - Response by the Arizona Department of Administration
 - Public Testimony
 - Discussion and Recommendations
15. Adjourn

Members:

Senator Jake Hoffman, Chair

Senator Wendy Rogers, Vice-chair

Senator Eva Diaz

Senator David C. Farnsworth

Senator Juan Mendez

Senator Janae Shamp

Senator Priya Sundareshan

Senator Justine Wadsack

01/11/2024

01/12/2024

hf

For questions regarding this agenda, please contact Senate Research Department.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Senate Secretary's Office: (602) 926-4231 (voice). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

SENATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting

January 17, 2024

9:00 A.M., SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videooplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024011033>

Members Present:

Senator Jake Hoffman, Chair
Senator Wendy Rogers, Vice-Chair
Senator Eva Diaz
Senator David C. Farnsworth
Senator Juan Mendez
Senator Janae Shamp
Senator Priya Sundareshan
Senator Justine Wadsack

Staff:

Jason Theodorou, Government Research Analyst
Alanna Bendel, Government Research Assistant Analyst
Michael Ayala, Government Research Intern

Chairman Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and attendance was taken.

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Hoffman requested the staff introduce themselves as follows:

- Jason Theodorou, Government Research Analyst
- Alanna Bendel, Government Research Assistant Analyst
- Michael Ayala, Government Research Intern
- Jackson Cooper, Government Committee Secretary

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Presentation by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Kimberly O'Connor, Executive Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Homeland Security, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Homeland Security" (Attachment A). Ms. O'Connor also distributed a booklet entitled "Sunset Review, 2024 Report" (Attachment B).

Susan Dzbanko, Deputy Director of Grant Administration, Arizona Department of Homeland Security, continued with the PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A).

Ryan Murray, Deputy Director, Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office, and Interim Chief Information Security Officer, Arizona Department of Homeland Security, continued with the PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Dzbanko answered questions posed by members of the Committee.

Public Testimony

Gil Orrantia, Former Director, Arizona Department of Homeland Security, testified in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Sheriff Mark Lamb, Pinal County, testified in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Sheriff Leon Wilmot, Yuma County, testified in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Robert Watkins, on behalf of Sheriff Mark Danells, Cochise County, testified in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Discussion and Recommendations

The Committee offered comments.

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for 2 years until July 1, 2026. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 8-0-0 (Attachment 1).

Senators Shamp, Sundareshan, Wadsack, Mendez, Rogers and Hoffman explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS

Presentation by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors

Tom Cole, Executive Deputy Director, Arizona Registrar of Contractors, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Registrar of Contractors" (Attachment C) and explained the function and purpose of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors. Mr. Cole answered questions posed by members of the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Arizona Registrar of Contractors for 2 years until July 1, 2026. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 8-0-0 (Attachment 2).

Senator Hoffman explained his vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

Presentation by the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration

Judith Stapley, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Technical Registration, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Sunset Audit Review Committee of Reference 2024" (Attachment D) and explained the function and purpose of the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration. Ms. Stapley answered questions posed by members of the Committee.

Senator Hoffman offered comments.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to convert the Occupational Licenses under the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration to a less restrictive regulation.

The Committee offered comments.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 5-3-0 (Attachment 3).

Senators Mendez, Sundareshan, Wadsack and Hoffman explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON TRIBAL RELATIONS

Presentation by the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations

Jason Chavez, Director of Tribal Affairs, Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Governor's Office on Tribal Relations" (Attachment E) and a folder with documents referring to the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations (Attachment F). Mr. Chavez answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

Senator Theresa Hatathlie, Legislative District 6, testified in support of the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations.

Senator Sally Gonzales, Legislative District 20, testified in support of the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations for 2 years until July 1, 2026. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 8-0-0 (Attachment 4).

Senators Mendez, Sundareshan, Rogers and Hoffman explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD

Presentation by the State Personnel Board

Zachariah Tolliver, Executive Director, State Personnel Board, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Personnel Board" (Attachment G). Mr. Tolliver answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the State Personnel Board for 2 years until July 1, 2026. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Attachment 5).

Senators Mendez and Sundareshan explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Monette Kiepke, Performance Audit Manager, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Commerce Authority, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment H) and explained the findings from the Auditor General's Sunset Review. Ms. Kiepke answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Commerce Authority

Sandra Watson, President and CEO, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Commerce Authority, An Overview" (Attachment I) as well as a handout entitled "Update on ACA Actions In Response to September 2023 Performance Audit" (Attachment J). Ms. Watson played a video on the ACA's role in bringing Lucid Motors to Arizona. Ms. Watson answered questions posed by the Committee.

RECESS

At 12:15 p.m. the Chairman recessed the meeting to the sound of the gavel.

RECONVENE

At 3:33 p.m. the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Response by the Arizona Commerce Authority (continued)

Ms. Watson answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

Greg Blackie, Arizona Free Enterprise Club, testified against the continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to revise or consolidate the Arizona Commerce Authority. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 4-3-1 (Attachment 6).

Senators Sundareshan, Mendez, Wadsack, Shamp, Rogers and Hoffman explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF ARIZONA

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE BOILER ADVISORY BOARD

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD

Presentation by the Industrial Commission of Arizona

Gaetano Testini, Executive Deputy Director, Industrial Commission of Arizona, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Industrial Commission of Arizona" (Attachment K) and explained the function and purpose of the Industrial

Commission of Arizona, the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee, the Boiler Advisory Board, and the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board. Mr. Testini also distributed a booklet entitled "The Industrial Commission of Arizona and Related Advisory/Review Boards, Review of Sunset Factors, 2023" (Attachment L). Mr. Testini answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Industrial Commission of Arizona, the Boiler Advisory Board, the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board for 2 years until July 1, 2026.

Senator Hoffman offered comments.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Attachment 7).

Senators Mendez, Shamp, Sundareshan and Rogers explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Miguel Caro Mateus, Performance Audit Manager, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Administration, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment M) and explained the findings from the Auditor General's Sunset Review. Mr. Caro Mateus answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Department of Administration

Elizabeth Alvarado Thorson, Executive Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Administration, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Administration, Sunset Hearing Presentation" (Attachment N) and explained the purpose and function of the Arizona Department of Administration.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Rogers moved that the Senate Government Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Arizona Department of Administration for 2 years until July 1, 2026. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Attachment 8).

Senators Farnsworth, Mendez, Shamp, Sundareshan, Rogers and Hoffman explained their vote.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda items (Attachment O).

Attached are forms noting the individuals who submitted a speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment P).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackson Cooper
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)

Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Sunset Review Hearing
January 17, 2024



AZDOHS Mission

Protect Arizona by providing strategic direction and access to resources that will enable all of the State's homeland security stakeholders to achieve our collective goals of:

- Preventing terrorist attacks
- Enhancing border security
- Heightening cybersecurity efforts
- Reducing our vulnerability to all critical hazards
- Enhancing the capacity and expertise to plan for, mitigate, respond to and recover from all critical hazards that affect the safety, well-being, and economic security of Arizona; and building the resiliency of Arizona.



AZDOHS History

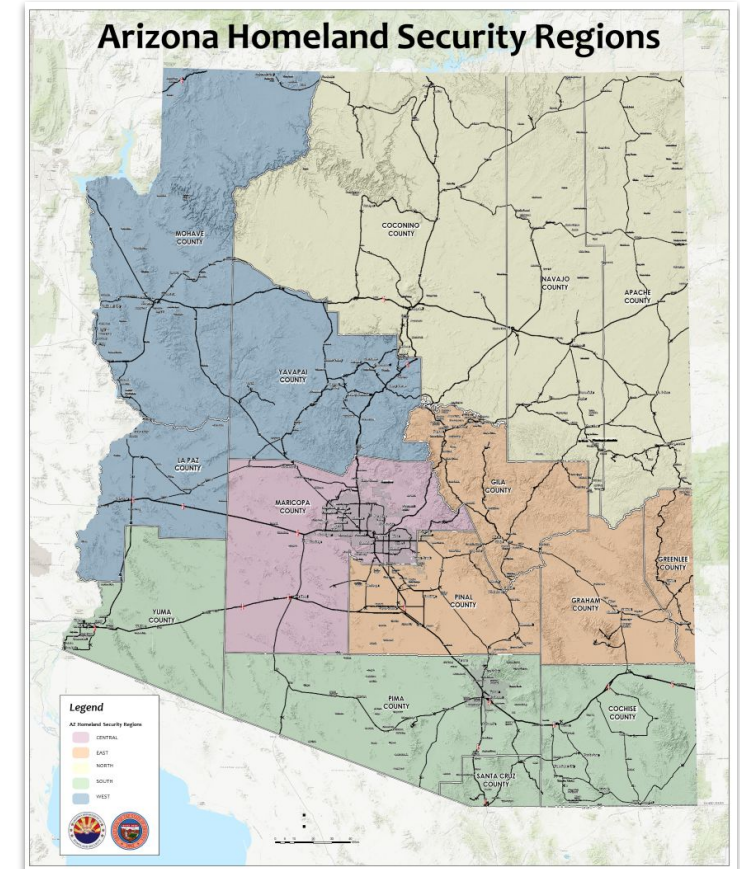
- 2003 - Arizona Office of Homeland Security (AOHS)
- 2006 - Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)
- 2015 - Successful Sunset Review
- 2022 - SISPO moved under AZDOHS

Principle Roles

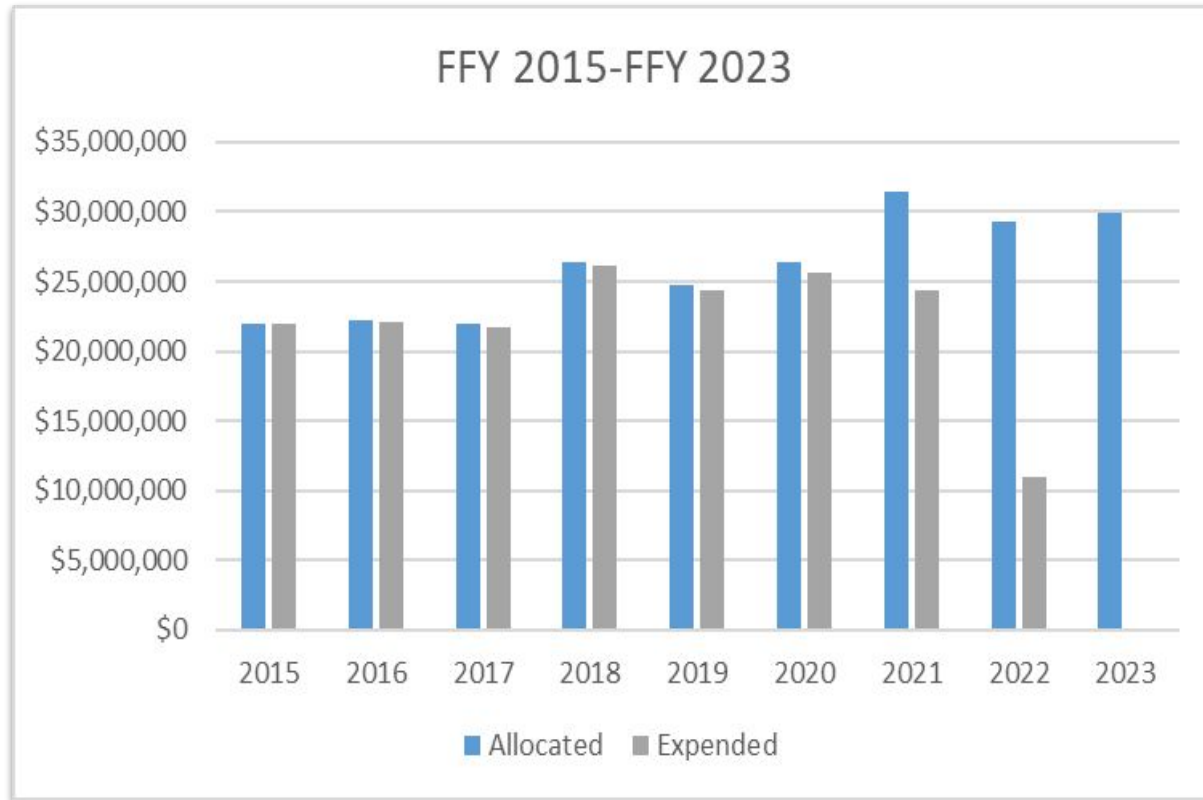
- Homeland Security Advisor
- Grant Administration
- Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office

Grant Management FFY 2015-Present

- Manage and administer five (5) federal homeland security grant programs
 - State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
 - Statewide, nexus to terrorism
 - 5 Regional Advisory Councils-recommending body
 - Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)
 - Maricopa County footprint
 - Nexus to terrorism in high risk, urban area
 - Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)
 - Border security grant
 - Force multiplier via overtime and equipment to state, local and tribal law enforcement
 - Nonprofit-UASI and State
 - Funding for nonprofit organization for target hardening of their facilities and training
- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)
- State of Arizona Nonprofit Security Grant



Grant Management FFY 2015-Present



- 99.21% expenditure rate of closed grants
- 2237 individual projects managed/administered with an average of 248 projects per grant fiscal year
- 100% of projects are monitored
- FEMA Monitoring-no significant issues
 - 2017 FEMA HQ Site Visit
 - 2021 FEMA RIX Desk Review
 - 2021 FEMA HQ Desk Review
 - 2023 FEMA RIX Site Visit

Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office

A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 41, Article 3, Section 4282

- Managed by the State Chief Information Security Officer

Tasked to:

- **Develop** and ensure compliance with statewide information security and privacy policies, monitor and report this compliance
- **Identify** information security and privacy protection risks in each budget unit and direct **risk mitigation strategies** to address them
- **Coordinate** statewide information security and privacy protection awareness and training programs
- **Establish** a state **security operations center** for central detection, reporting and response efforts for security incidents and breaches across the state
- **Evaluate** information security aspects of **IT projects** as part of **ITAC** process
- **Operate** the information security aspects of the enterprise-level infrastructure managed by the department of administration.
- **Develop** other **strategies** as necessary to protect this state's information technology infrastructure and the data that is stored on or transmitted by the infrastructure.
- Each budget unit and its contractors are required to **identify and report** security incidents to the SISPO and deploy mitigation strategies as directed
- In coordination with the Attorney General's office, accept reports of data breaches that impact more than 1,000 Arizona Citizens

Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office (SISPO)

Enterprise Security Program funded through the **Information Technology Fund**

- Appropriated as “Statewide information security and privacy operations and controls”
- Provides enterprise-wide Cybersecurity services to all State Budget Units
- Informed by the Enterprise Security Program Advisory Council (ESPAC)

Cyber Readiness Program for Local Governments

- Appropriated as: “Statewide cybersecurity grants”
- Makes five cybersecurity services available to all local governments
- Informed by the Statewide Cyber Readiness Planning Committee

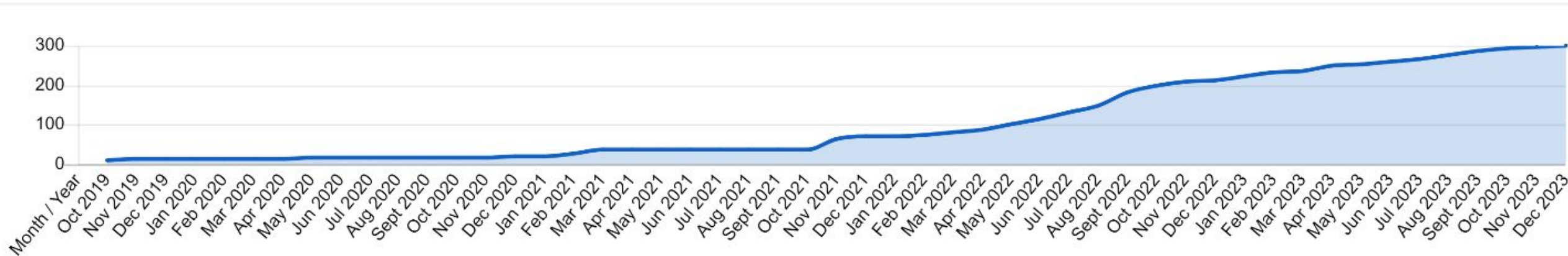
Arizona Cyber Command Center





Cyber Readiness Program for Local Governments

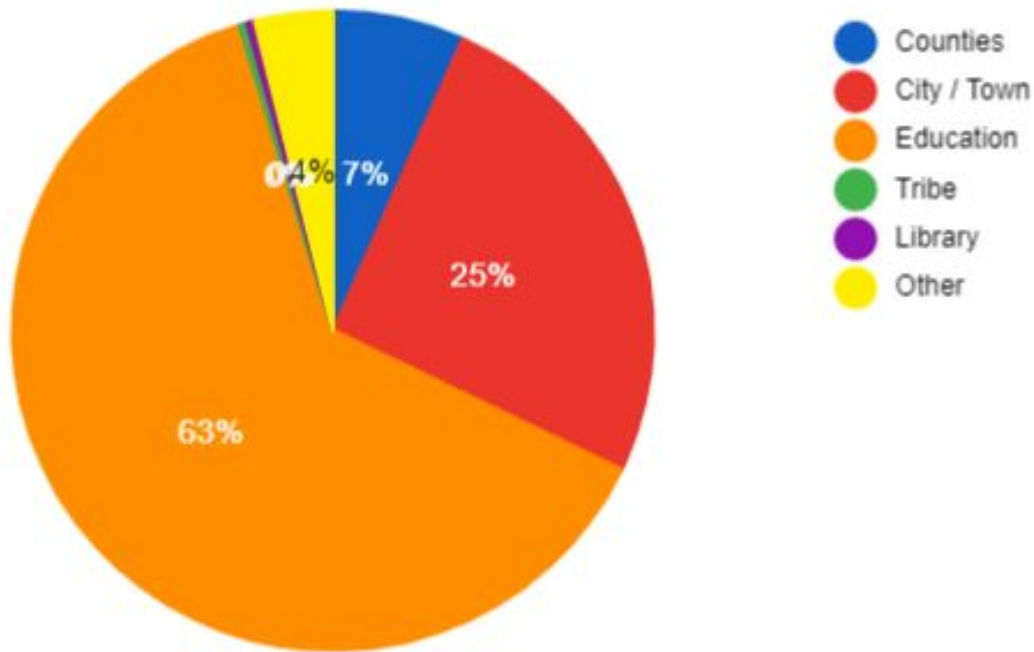
- Started in 2019 with **Homeland Security Grant Program** funds
 - **\$46,000** for security awareness training to cover ~23,000 users
- FY2023: Appropriated \$10M from the GF to protect Local Governments across the state
- Protecting almost **100,000** devices across **300** cities, counties, schools, and tribes, the program has grown over **900%** in the last 2 years.



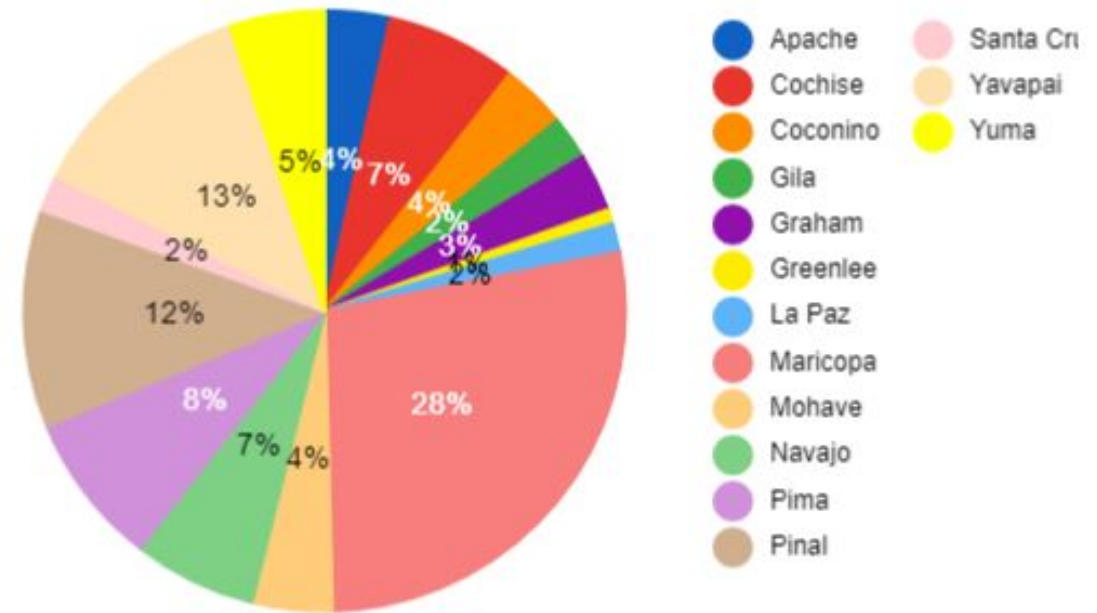


Cyber Readiness Program - Demographics

Participant Entity Type



Participant By County





Thank you!

Questions

General Appropriations Act; 2023-2024.

Sec. 47. ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

2023-24

FTE positions **20.0**

- Statewide information security and privacy operations and controls: **\$11,319,400**
- Antihuman trafficking grant fund deposit: **\$10,000,000**
- Arizona state nonprofit security grant program fund deposit: **\$5,000,000**
- Statewide cybersecurity grants: **\$10,000,000**
- Total appropriation — Arizona department of homeland security **\$36,319,400**

Fund sources:

- State general fund \$25,000,000
- Information technology fund **\$11,319,400**

SUNSET REVIEW

2024 Report



January, 2024

Arizona Department of Homeland Security
Executive Deputy Director Kimberly O'Connor
State of Arizona





Table of Contents

Arizona Department of Homeland Security – Sunset Factor Responses Tab 1

Organizational Chart Tab 2

Stakeholder Letters of Support Tab 3





Governor Katie Hobbs

State of Arizona

Department of Homeland Security



Interim Director Susan Dzbanko

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Senator Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Representative Kevin Payne
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Sunset Review

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne:

Thank you for your letter regarding the sunset review process for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2954, the AZDOHS is providing responses to the sunset factors requested.

1. The key statutory objectives and purposes in establishing the agency.

The Arizona Office of Homeland Security was established in 2003 at the direction of Governor Janet Napolitano as a result of the Homeland Security Act passed on November 25, 2002 after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. In September 2006, the Arizona State Legislature established the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) to further enhance the ability of the State to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and other disasters by developing and implementing effective and efficient management and administration of grants provided to the State through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) and other federal agencies. Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-4254, the Department is responsible for developing and implementing "policies, plans, and programs to enhance the ability of this State to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism, cybersecurity threats, and other critical hazards" and receiving and distributing "all awards granted to this State by the federal government for homeland security purposes."

The AZDOHS serves three principal roles in fulfilling its mission. The first is the role the Department serves as an advisory agency to the Governor and her staff. The second role is that of a grant administrative agency charged with the responsibility of managing and administering the suite of Homeland Security Grant Programs (HSGP), the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP-State and NSGP-Urban Areas) and various other USDHS grant programs. The third role is the Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office which serves as the strategic planning, facilitation and coordination office for information security in Arizona. This includes the appointment of the Statewide Chief Information Security Officer (CISO).

The AZDOHS Director serves as the Homeland Security Advisor (HSA) to the Governor and as a primary liaison to the USDHS. The Director briefs the Governor and her staff regarding homeland security, border security, counterterrorism, public safety and cybersecurity issues. In addition, the Director maintains an exceptional and interactive relationship with local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officials, emergency managers, fire personnel, and other public safety representatives. These professional relationships extend to the county sheriffs, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), FBI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, DHS Intelligence and Analysis, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), USDHS, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The Director and Deputy Director of Grant Administration are also members of the National Governors Association, Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) which is a nationwide body providing a forum that brings together the governors' principal homeland security advisors from each state, commonwealth, territory, and District of Columbia.

In its secondary role, the Department serves as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the HSGP and other federal grants; and, therefore receives, administers and manages the federal HSGP and other related grant programs from the USDHS. To meet the overarching objectives of the AZDOHS is to help ensure Arizona and the nation is prepared and resilient, the AZDOHS provides strategic planning, direction, and funding support to attain capability targets for the 31 core capabilities of the National Preparedness System under the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. A whole community approach is utilized to engage local jurisdictions, first responders, private sector, nongovernmental organizations and community members through developing and maintaining close relationships and collaboration with local, state, tribal and federal partners.

Since the enactment of A.R.S. §41-4251 through 4273, processes and procedures have been developed and implemented to ensure good stewardship as well as efficiency of funding opportunities. Developments include conducting annual Grant Information Seminars, completing the Threat/Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, Stakeholder Preparedness Review, conducting Regional Advisory Councils meetings, attending Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Executive Committee and Working Group meetings, attending and managing the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Integrated Planning Teams as well as day-to-day planning, reimbursement processing, along with project and financial subrecipient monitoring. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) specifically indicates that SAAs are the eligible applicants of grant awards to the states.

In 2022, legislation formalized the transition of the statewide information security and privacy office (SISPO) from ADOA-ASET to AZDOHS elevating the focus of the office while maintaining centralized statewide strategic planning, facilitation, and coordination of cybersecurity in the state. The AZDOHS Director serves as or appoints the State Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to manage the statewide information security and privacy office and act as the principal cybersecurity strategist for the State. In order to accomplish this mission, the SISPO is required by statute to develop, implement, and maintain statewide information security policies and a coordinated statewide plan for information security and privacy. To this end, the office also directs cybersecurity and privacy protection compliance reviews for each budget unit ensuring their compliance with policies set by the Department and evaluates the effectiveness of agency cybersecurity plans, monitoring, and reporting as necessary. The Department also works to identify information security and privacy protection risks in each budget unit and directs those agencies to adopt risk mitigation strategies following established best practices and protection methods. The Department coordinates statewide information security and privacy protection awareness and training programs supporting the goal of training every State employee on the importance of cybersecurity and evaluating the vulnerabilities present in our workforce through simulated phishing attacks.

The Department has also established a state security operations center (SOC) for the central detection, reporting, analysis, and response of cybersecurity incidents and breaches across the state. This supports all agencies in meeting their requirement of identifying and reporting security incidents to the SISPO immediately upon discovery and for both agencies to work together to deploy mitigation strategies, response efforts, or recovery of services as directed. The Department continues to develop other strategies as necessary to protect Arizona's information technology infrastructure and the critical data that is stored on or transmitted by it. This includes consulting with the Department of Administration to review security aspects of all IT projects submitted through the Project Investment Justification (PIJ) process as well as supporting ADOA-ASET in the secure operation of the enterprise-level IT infrastructure managed by the Department of Administration.

2. The agency's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its key statutory objectives and purposes.

The AZDOHS has met its statutory objective, purpose and efficiency by attaining a 99.39% drawdown rate of federal grant funds. Since 2006, the AZDOHS has effectively and efficiently managed and administered over \$546 million in federal homeland security grants awarded to over 6,000 local, state, tribal, and nonprofit projects in accordance with the core mission to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and all other critical hazards. Since the last sunset review, the AZDOHS has added the State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) and the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) to its portfolio. These grants, along with the other suite of grants, comprise over \$30M in federal grant funding each year.

Specifically, the State Homeland Security Grant Program funds are allocated to the five Homeland Security Regions (Central, North, South, East, West) utilizing a risk formula patterned after the USDHS/FEMA risk review process. In order to optimize the entire state's ability to prepare for and protect against acts of terrorism or other critical hazards, the AZDOHS divided the state into five homeland security regions and created Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) for each region to ensure the state strengthens its ability to work together at all levels to address common threat and vulnerability issues and encourage the sharing of resources across town, city, county, state, tribal, and federal lines. Each RAC is comprised of first responders and local elected officials that live or work in the region including: two members from fire service (one rural, one urban); one police chief; one sheriff; one tribal government member; one emergency manager; four at-large members; one member from the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and public health. It is through these RACs that homeland security projects are initially prioritized and recommended for funding. The AZDOHS engages with these cross-jurisdictional and bi-partisan RAC members throughout the year via in-person meetings and conference calls.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) is one of the grant programs in the Homeland Security Grant Program suite. Allocations of grant funds are specifically made to USDHS-designated urban areas that have been defined as high-threat, high density areas. The AZDOHS provides oversight and works with the UASI Working Group (UAWG) to address a wide variety of threats and hazards within the Central Region/UASI footprint. These relationships, in turn, have a far-reaching statewide impact. Similarly, the Operation Stonegarden Integrated Planning Teams (IPT) addresses border security by engaging local, state, tribal, federal, and bi-national partners in collaborative efforts.

The Department also completes an annual assessment of current capabilities and future resource requirements known as the Threat/Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). This important document is required to be submitted by December 31 each year and is a cornerstone to the planning efforts for the Department. The AZDOHS has submitted the assessment on time each year and has received positive feedback from our Federal partners.

The Department continues to meet its grant management/administration statutory objectives and purpose by refining policies, plans and programs where appropriate. As the USDHS grant programs evolve, the AZDOHS will continue to meet the ongoing planning, implementation and reporting requirements to maintain eligibility to receive, manage and administer future grant funding opportunities.

As it pertains to cybersecurity, the AZDOHS maintains an effective use of enterprise-level cybersecurity resources, providing high-value cybersecurity protections and risk mitigation strategies across the state to address the most sophisticated cybersecurity threats. The Department has continued to develop, implement, and maintain statewide cybersecurity policies, and conduct assessments of compliance with those policies resulting in increased effectiveness in several key areas:

Centralized Coordination: The Department's role as a central coordination body allows it to streamline efforts across various budget units evaluating and avoiding duplication of efforts and promoting consistency in information security best practices.

Policy Development and Compliance: Effectively developing, communicating, and enforcing statewide information security policies can lead to greater compliance and a stronger security posture across all state agencies.

Risk Management and Mitigation: The Department's ability to identify and address security risks within budget units helps mitigate potential threats before they escalate and become incidents.

Training and Awareness: By coordinating statewide information security awareness and training programs, the agency can contribute to a more informed workforce reducing the likelihood of security incidents caused by human error.

Incident Response and Detection: Establishing the state security operations center enhances the state's ability to detect, report, and respond to security incidents promptly minimizing their impact and evaluate the true threat to the state through holistic analysis and reporting.

Consultation and Examination: Close collaboration with the Department of Administration and other budget units ensures that security aspects are considered in all IT projects leading to stronger security integration from the outset.

Reporting and Accountability: Regular monitoring and reporting on compliance with information security policies can allow the legislature and executive branch to hold agencies accountable for their security efforts and provide effective assistance for closing security control gaps.

Adaptation to Emerging Threats: The Department's ability to collaborate with the best and brightest from all state agencies to evaluate the true statewide threat perspective allows it to adapt its strategies and procedures to address evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges maintaining effectiveness over time.

3. The extent to which the agency's key statutory objectives and purposes duplicate the objectives and purposes of other governmental agencies or private enterprises.

Per the FEMA NOFO regarding federal homeland security grants, the SAA (AZDOHS) is the only eligible applicant for the Homeland Security suite of grants. As such, private enterprise would not qualify to apply for and administer these grants. The homeland security grant projects must align with the THIRA, SPR, and numerous other federal regulations/requirements that are unique to the homeland security grants program. The homeland security grants place an emphasis on preparedness for terrorist events or other critical hazards. As such, the homeland security grants have a narrow focus on terrorism preparedness/response; and, therefore, other agencies do not have the same/similar objectives.

For information security and privacy protections, other state agencies may have information security and privacy functions, but the central coordination and facilitation role described in the statute cannot be found elsewhere. This provides a central reporting and management of all cyber and privacy risks across all state agencies and allows for efficient implementation of holistic cybersecurity strategies. The Department is the only organization authorized to set statewide cybersecurity and privacy policies to ensure consistent implementation of security controls across all state agencies.

The Department is also the only agency operating a statewide Security Operations Center, which allows for a central analysis and reporting of cybersecurity incidents across all state agencies and local governments and the effective coordination of response efforts to those incidents.

There may be some overlap with the Office of the Auditor General related to the auditing of the implementation and compliance with statewide cybersecurity policies; however, they are legislatively driven and only focus on specific areas/agencies as requested. The AZDOHS is required to evaluate all agencies and provide specific mitigation strategies to address cybersecurity risks identified.

4. The extent to which rules adopted by the agency are consistent with the legislative mandate.

The AZDOHS currently has no rules nor does the enabling statute expressly authorize the Department to promulgate rules and regulations.

5. The extent to which the agency has provided appropriate public access to records, meetings and rulemakings, including soliciting public input in making rules and decisions.

The AZDOHS complies with Arizona Open Meeting Law, Public Record Laws, and Records Retention schedules. Additionally, as a term and condition of accepting, managing and administering the federally funded grant programs the AZDOHS is required to follow 2 CFR 200 which covers records retention policies. The AZDOHS provides access to public records in compliance with Arizona statutes with guidance from the Attorney General's Office.

6. The extent to which the agency timely investigated and resolved complaints that are within its jurisdiction.

This factor does not apply to the AZDOHS because the enabling legislation does not establish any authority to investigate and resolve complaints.

7. The extent to which the level of regulation exercised by the agency is appropriate as compared to other states or best practices, or both.

The AZDOHS is not a regulatory agency and therefore this question does not pertain to us.

8. The extent to which the agency has established safeguards against possible conflicts of interest.

The AZDOHS administers more than \$30M of federal funding each year, and there are numerous safeguards set in place to eliminate conflicts of interest. Accepting federal funds requires following a strict set of guidelines from FEMA as well as the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These documents set forth strict guidelines for states and subrecipients to follow to avoid possible conflicts of interest. Additionally, the AZDOHS monitors our stakeholders for compliance with the grant guidance and the CFR. Our RAC members are subject to background checks and are required to sign notarized Oaths of Office where they attest to upholding the Constitution. During RAC funding meetings, members who have a vested interest in a particular project abstain from voting on/for that particular project. Subject matter working groups are required to sign a Member Disclosure Form which is kept on file. The Governor's Office Human Resources (which supports the AZDOHS) requires disclosure of any outside associations or secondary employment that would be viewed as a conflict of interest. The AZDOHS follows the Governor's Office Ethics Policy.

As a member of the Information Technology Authorization Committee (ITAC), the State CISO is also required to sign the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRRC) Council Member Disclosure Form declaring whether they or a relative may have "substantial interest" in the projects being reviewed and approved. This includes abstaining from votes when projects are submitted by the AZDOHS.

The AZDOHS also utilizes a comprehensive review process for all cybersecurity solution purchases ensuring that the Project Investment Justification and ITAC Authorization processes are followed where appropriate as well as review and approval through either the Enterprise Security Program Advisory Council or the Statewide Cybersecurity Planning Committee. This also includes a close working relationship with the State Procurement Office to verify adherence of all procurement rules.

9. The extent to which changes are necessary for the agency to more efficiently and effectively fulfill its key statutory objectives and purposes or to eliminate statutory responsibilities that are no longer necessary.

The AZDOHS does not propose any changes.

10. The extent to which the termination of the agency would significantly affect the public health, safety or welfare.

Public health, safety and welfare would be significantly impacted by the termination of the AZDOHS. During 2006 - 2022, the AZDOHS managed and administered over \$546M expenditures from the homeland security grant funding and other federal grants relevant to homeland security. The AZDOHS is anticipating receipt of an additional \$38M in FFY 2023 funding to support projects that increase capabilities in planning, prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery from terrorist attacks or critical hazards.

In 2004, Arizona established the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) which houses intelligence analysts that are continuously involved in information sharing with local, state, tribal and federal partners to protect Arizona and the nation. Infrastructure and communication equipment has been acquired to increase operability and interoperability among first responders. Personal protective and detection equipment has been acquired for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents. Emergency operation plans have been developed and/or enhanced statewide. Training and exercises are conducted annually to maintain a state of readiness. All of these and many more examples demonstrate advancements and successful outcomes that impact Arizona's health, safety and security.

The AZDOHS employs a staff of individuals who are dedicated to the mission and success of this Department and the state of Arizona. The detriment of terminating this Department would have cascading effects within the first responder community as well as the relations between the state and federal government agencies. Excellent partnerships and trust have been built and established among the AZDOHS and local, state, tribal, and federal partners over the past 20 years. Furthermore, the AZDOHS is currently managing five federal fiscal years totaling more than \$141 million in funding and close to 700 individual projects. Terminating this Department would have a devastating impact on the ability to effectively manage and administer the grant funds in accordance with state and federal regulations. The homeland security grants are extremely specialized. Terminating this Department would result in unintended consequences to include decrease in draw-down rate due to transition time lapse, reduced project management, increased reimbursement timeframes, loss of best practices and the solid foundation that has been established.

Homeland Security grants are reimbursement grants. If this Department were to be terminated; local, state and tribal partner relationships would need to be rebuilt. Many of our subrecipients are in rural areas that do not have the capital to wait significant amounts of time before they are reimbursed. Inefficient or temporarily absent reimbursement processing could significantly impact local jurisdictions' ability to maintain operations. Additionally, our process for accepting and awarding funds is critical to the ability for local, state and tribal partners to procure and put into place the necessary equipment and training required to maintain a readiness level. The structured processes the AZDOHS has developed and implemented are recognized nationwide as best practices by FEMA Region IX and FEMA headquarters as well as the USDHS. If there is any disruption to these processes, our stakeholders will see a diminished capacity to procure and implement projects which may result in devastating effects to first responders as well as the community as a whole.

Also, the Department currently provides significant resources in the way of direct operational cybersecurity protections and services to both state agencies as well as local government entities. Discontinuation or disruption of these services would be catastrophic for many organizations that rely on these protections to prevent cyber attacks. This would also have additional cascading effects within the community as well as the relations between the state, local, and federal government agencies. The Department's role in coordinating and overseeing information security across various budget units helps protect critical government systems and data from cyber threats. Without the Department's central coordination, there could be a risk of fragmented or inconsistent security practices across different entities potentially leading to increased vulnerabilities and breaches. The Department's Security

Operations Center (SOC) plays a key role in detecting, reporting, and responding to security incidents and breaches. If this function were terminated, the state's ability to promptly identify and mitigate security breaches could be compromised potentially leading to longer response times and increased impact from incidents.

The Department's role in developing and enforcing statewide information security policies ensures a consistent level of security across all state agencies. Without this oversight, budget units might develop their own disparate policies leading to potential gaps or inadequacies in information security measures. The Department's ability to identify and mitigate information security risks helps prevent potential threats before they escalate. Termination could lead to a lack of coordinated efforts to assess and manage risks across the state's IT infrastructure. The Department's focus on privacy protection is crucial for safeguarding sensitive information. Termination might result in reduced emphasis on privacy concerns potentially leading to breaches of personally identifiable information and public trust or for fragmented implementation of privacy protections across each individual state agency. The Department's coordination of training programs ensures that government employees are informed about information security best practices. Termination could lead to a lack of consistent training and awareness efforts potentially increasing the likelihood of security incidents caused by human error.

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, and the Department's role includes adapting strategies to address emerging threats. Termination could hinder the state's ability to stay ahead of new threats and implement holistic effective cybersecurity measures across the state. As government operations increasingly rely on digital systems and data, disruptions caused by security incidents could impact the efficiency and effectiveness of essential citizen services affecting the public's well-being.

In summary, the termination of the Department could have significant implications for the public safety, and welfare of the state due to potential vulnerabilities, reduced incident response capabilities, inconsistent security practices, and the broader impact on government operations.

11. The extent to which the agency potentially creates unexpected negative consequences that may require additional review by the COR, including increasing the price of goods, affecting the availability of services, limiting the abilities of individuals and businesses to operate efficiently and increasing the cost of government.

Part of the mission of the Department is to provide services and access to resources that will enable stakeholders to achieve our collective goals of preventing terrorist attacks, reducing vulnerability to all critical hazards, enhancing the capacity and expertise to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from all terrorist attacks and critical hazards that affect the safety, well-being and economic security of Arizona and building resiliency. By providing the economic and operational resources to other state agencies, local units of government and non-profit organizations, the Department is helping to increase the availability of services and the abilities of individuals and businesses to operate efficiently.

The work of the Department and its stakeholders has increased safety, capabilities of first responders, and has made Arizona less vulnerable to all critical hazards. No unexpected negative consequences are created by the work conducted by the Department.

12. The extent to which the agency has addressed deficiencies in its enabling statutes.

This question is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

13. The extent to which the agency has determined whether the Attorney General or any other agency in Arizona has the authority to prosecute or initiate actions.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

14. The consequences of eliminating the agency or consolidating it with another agency.

Although it has been 22 years since the tragedy of 9/11, there continues to be a persistent, evolving threat to our nation. Whether it is a homegrown, lone wolf terrorist or an attack from radical extremists or a nation-state cyber attack, Arizona must be prepared to respond to all events.

Terminating the AZDOHS is not a sensible option given the incoming federal grants, success of the Department, and the current volatility of the national security spectrum. Consolidating the AZDOHS with another agency would add unnecessary bureaucracy to an already proficient state agency while incurring unintended consequences detrimental to its stakeholders and the health and welfare of the public safety community.

To acquire the knowledge to achieve the standard of excellence this Department has attained would take years to rebuild. The field of homeland security is vast and ever changing. Although not insurmountable, it does take a considerable amount of time to become familiar with all of the components involved in the planning, project implementation, reimbursement, monitoring, close-out, assessments and other mechanisms that embody the arena of homeland security and the associated grants and cybersecurity operations. Consolidating the Department with another agency would only impede the progress of the mission of the AZDOHS causing disruption/delay of services as well as imposing potential additional burden to educate and train new/different staff and leadership and develop/modify processes that align with another agency's organization.

The relationships that have been built and maintained by the AZDOHS staff in their roles as advisors on various homeland security related committees, both internal to the state and on a nationwide basis, would be negatively impacted by terminating or consolidating the AZDOHS. Although feasible, it would be difficult and take a substantial amount of time and energy to rebuild and maintain the excellent working relationships the AZDOHS staff have cultivated over the past 20 years with our state, local, tribal, and federal partners.

We strongly believe that retaining the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency is in the best interest of the State of Arizona and the communities it serves.

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Additionally, statute requires the COR to consider certain factors for each agency that administers an occupational regulation, which is defined as: 1) a statute, rule, practice, policy or other state law that allows an individual to use an occupational title or work in a lawful occupation; and 2) a government registration, government certification and occupational or professional license. An occupational regulation does not include a business license, facility license, building permit or zoning and land use regulation, except to the extent those state laws regulate an individual's personal qualification to perform a lawful occupation. If your agency falls under this category, please provide written responses to the following:

15. The extent to which the occupational regulation meets the requirements of A.R.S. § 41-3502.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

16. The extent to which the failure to regulate a profession or occupation will result in:

- a. the loss of insurance.
- b. an impact to the ability to practice in other states or as required by federal law.
- c. an impact to the required licensure or registration with the federal government.
- d. the loss of constitutionally afforded practices.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and for your time as you review and consider the continuance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

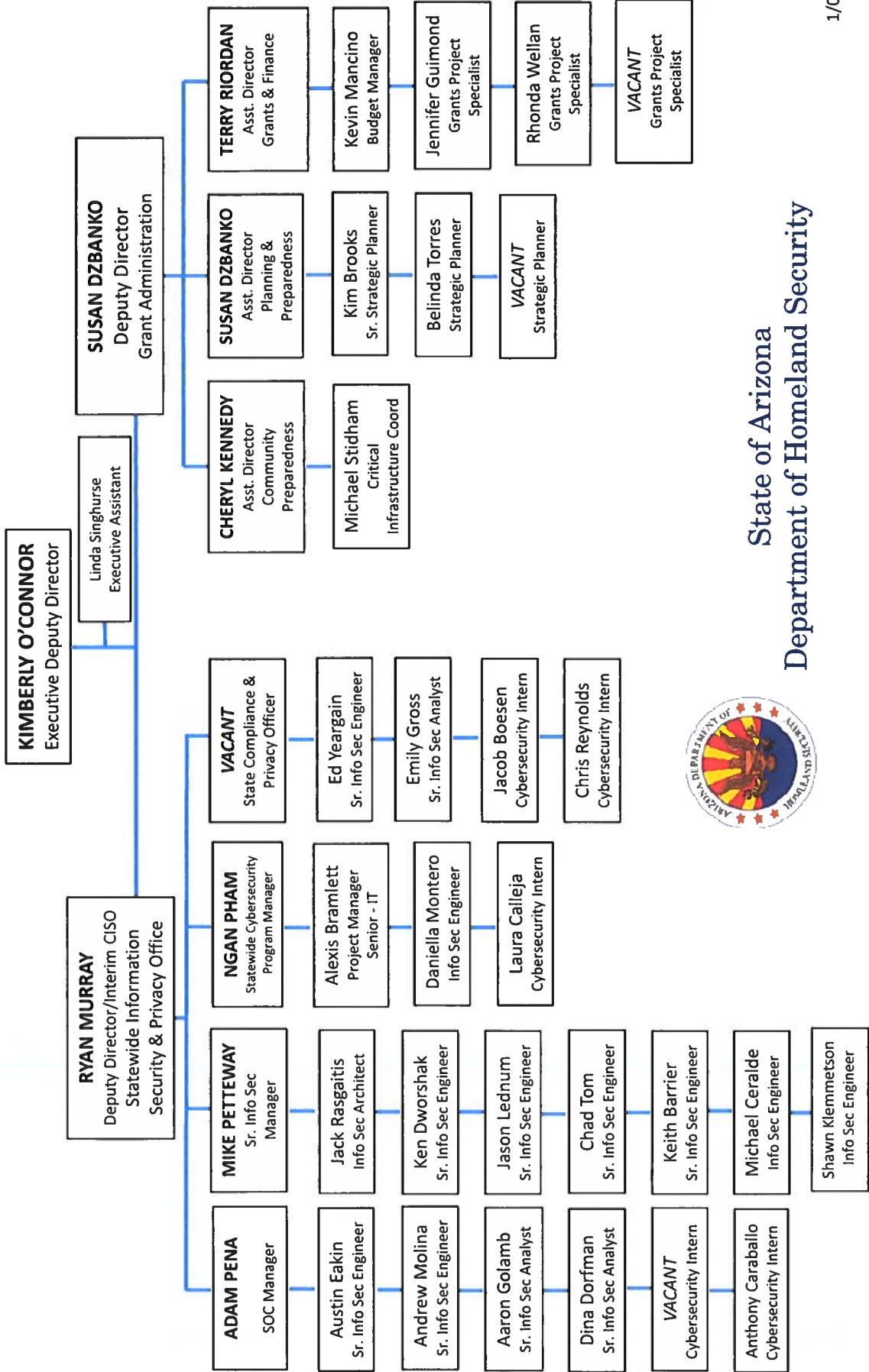
Sincerely,



Susan Dzubanko
Interim Director

cc: Representative Kevin Payne, COR Co-Chair
Nathan McRae, House Analyst





State of Arizona
Department of Homeland Security







Letters of Support

(In Alphabetical Order)





January 14, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Department of Labor QUEST Grant Application

Gentlemen:

The Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance (ACTRA) fully supports the continued operation and funding for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDoHS) and continuation of their cyber mission that is allowing Arizona to set the bar nationally for an outcome driven model. We have been a not-for-profit private sector AZDoHS partner supporting AZDoHS for many years that has experienced tangible results that demonstrate the value of proactive private public partnerships (PPP) in responding to the cyber threat. Our recent integration of our mature threat intelligence with the State's Command Center is a visible manifestation of operationalizing integrating bi-directional threat intelligence to protect our nation's critical infrastructure and national security interests. This is also the result of comprehensive cybersecurity planning that through its execution is setting Arizona as the most cyber secure state in the nation, the goal of the Arizona Cybersecurity Team (ACT) that I co-chaired during Governor Ducey's administration with the former Chief Information Security Officer for the State of Arizona. I also resided in the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) from 2011-2019 and served as the first private Sector appointee on the ACTIC's Executive Board. With this background and our current tangible achievements, I can personally attest to the significant value proposition that AZDoHS uniquely contributes to our State.

The Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance's (ACTRA) mission is to Serve as the hub for collaborative information sharing in a neutral environment of trust, where member and non-member key stakeholders from industry, government, academia, law enforcement and intelligence come together. Leveraging public and private cross-sector resources to analyze critical, real-time intelligence and respond to cyber threats, the focus is on protecting our nation's critical infrastructure and national security interests, serving as a 501c3 organization, designated as a public foundation more effectively. Nothing has proven more effective in creating a network to defeat the cyber adversary's network than our collaborative relationship with AZDoHS

I am reaching out to express our robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity working collaboratively with the private sector, cannot be overstated. In fact, this collaboration produces a model that can be adopted at a grass roots level in other states nationally to deliver outcome driven actionable results. This is demonstrated by our launch in January 2024 of a similar framework in the State of Maryland.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. Our trained analysts embedded in our critical sector Member Organizations across the state and the nation work directly with the AZDoHS Command Center in the ACTIC, viscerally and visibly demonstrating the power of this collaboration. In fact, whether working together virtually daily or physically during major sporting events, our teams have proven the value in identifying and responding to real and potential threats.

The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable. AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by our public Member Organizations and other independent government organizations state-wide. These platforms have equipped our Member Organizations with essential tools and resources, empowering us and our Member Organizations to proactively address emerging cyber threats and provide increased telemetry. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our state's ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel. Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information

sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government and private sector entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats. Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS. Considering the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I personally urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona. I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

We appreciate you taking our input into consideration. Please feel free to contact me at my direct cell phone number below with any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Frank J. Grimmelmann
President & CEO
Intelligence Liaison Officer



Affiliated with Arizona Infragard
Emeritus Member ACTIC Executive Board
Chair, National ISAO Standards Organization/ISAO Creation Workgroup



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2102 WEST ENCANTO BLVD. P.O. BOX 6638 PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638 (602) 223-2000

"Courteous Vigilance"

KATIE HOBBS
Governor

JEFFREY GLOVER
Director

August 11, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

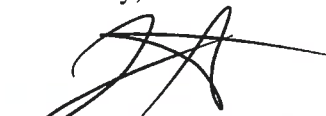
Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman and Payne:

Please allow this letter to serve as the Arizona Department of Public Safety's statement of continued support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) has had a long-standing relationship with AZDOHS and many of our units benefit from our supported mutual operations, including but not limited to the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC), the Drug Enforcement and Investigations Bureau (DEI) within our Criminal Investigations Division, information security within our Information Management Bureau, and our Wireless Systems Bureau (WSB).

The relationships DPS and the AZDOHS have built and continue to build benefit both agencies and the entire state as we continue to build a more robust and secure Arizona. DPS relies on the AZDOHS remaining a stand-alone agency in order to continue empowering our mutual stakeholders' collective goals to prevent, protect, mitigate, train, research, inform, communicate, and respond to threats to public safety and critical infrastructure throughout Arizona. AZDOHS brings multiple agencies together to create and foster strong, collaborative working relationships to enhance resources while holding agencies accountable to ensure that funds are disbursed appropriately, and goals are accomplished as we strive to keep Arizona safe.

Below you will see the many ways our agencies have interacted on specific grants, programs and operations that bring federal dollars into Arizona and ensure that technical expertise is shared among the public safety professionals working to keep our communities safe. We welcome further conversation and questions that you may have about these programs and hope to continue our work with you and with AZDOHS to address public safety threats.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Glover, Colonel
Director

cc: AZDOHS

AZDPS and AZDOHS Collaborations

ACTIC - Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center

DPS is responsible for operating the ACTIC, which was created after the tragedies of September 11, 2001. The ACTIC is the only nationally recognized fusion center in Arizona. The responsibility of the multiple agencies assigned to ACTIC includes overseeing the collection, production, and sharing of information and threats to public safety, as well as providing investigative support to DPS and other local, county, state, tribal, and federal partners, nationwide. The ACTIC operates 24/7, 365 days a year, while accommodating approximately 154 personnel from 16 different agencies who collaborate and work in partnership to identify and neutralize threats to public safety.

To say the AZDOHS and ACTIC have a collaborative working relationship is an understatement. AZDOHS is an independent agency that manages grants for multiple agencies throughout the state. The Interim Director, Susan Dzbanko, is part of the ACTIC Executive Board and participates in quarterly executive meetings, as well as monthly meetings of the ACTIC commanders. The Executive Board Quarterly Meetings provide all stakeholders with updates on programs and training hosted by the agencies working at the ACTIC. AZDOHS and DPS staff work together to ensure grant funds are appropriately allocated to the projects listed on the application prior to reimbursement. Additionally, AZDOHS staff members are the liaisons between the federal government and all state, local, and county stakeholders to ensure community preparedness is achieved to mitigate, respond, and recover from any critical threat or attack. AZDOHS staff facilitates meetings with multiple law enforcement agencies which creates and fosters strategic partnerships to enhance the resources acquired with federal grant funds. These strategic partnerships allow for multiple agencies to benefit from the personnel hired, program training(s), and software licenses purchased.

Operating the ACTIC is a costly endeavor, and without federal funds, the ACTIC would not be in a position to provide the multiple programs and training available to stakeholders throughout the state of Arizona. Currently, the ACTIC has eight separate grants, worth over \$1,000,000, which allow the ACTIC to meet the following six national priorities:

- Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places
- Enhancing the information and intelligence sharing and analysis
- Combating domestic violent extremism
- Enhancing cybersecurity
- Enhancing community preparedness and resilience
- Enhancing election security

ACTIC is required to submit quarterly reports to AZDOHS, which ensure milestones are being met and funding is being allocated appropriately to benefit and protect the citizens and critical infrastructure throughout Arizona. The eight federal grants fund three critical employee positions, which include the Intelligence Manager, the Cybersecurity Program Coordinator, and the Threat Analysis Specialist. All three positions ensure the ACTIC meets the six national priorities while collaborating with other local, county, state, tribal, and national stakeholders. The additional grants fund the ACTIC lease, software licenses, and Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) training program. ACTIC is the hub of information during large-scale events such as the 2023

Superbowl, national elections, presidential visits, active shooter incidents, and the 2020 civil unrest events.

The following provides a brief description of the duties associated with the positions funded by the federal grants managed by AZDOHS:

The Intelligence Manager (IM) position was created to have the means to coordinate and manage all of the information, threats, tips, and leads received from multiple sources throughout Arizona and to ensure proper analysis is conducted and relevant intelligence is developed and shared in a timely manner. The IM increases the overall capabilities of the ACTIC to identify, collect, analyze, and mitigate current and emerging threats to Arizona and the nation by working with other stakeholders. This position is currently funded through an AZDOHS grant to ensure all information collected within the ACTIC is being analyzed, documented, and shared. The IM and other stakeholders from multiple agencies created the first six-week Arizona Law Enforcement Analyst Academy (ALEAA), which graduated 17 criminal intelligence analysts from eight different agencies. The IM is also responsible for conducting, coordinating, and managing the following activities:

- Annually update and publish the ACTIC Collection Plan, based on national security priorities;
- Annual DHS Domain Threat Assessment;
- Annual Privacy Training;
- Future ALEAA classes.

The Cybersecurity Program Coordinator (CPC) is part of the Arizona Information Sharing and Analysis Center (AZ-ISAC), located at ACTIC. AZ-ISAC collaborates with government and private sector partners to collect, analyze, and share information on cybersecurity and the threats they pose to national security. Additionally, the CPC is instrumental in managing, marketing, and outreach to partners and potential partners throughout Arizona. The AZ-ISAC supports election-related cyber issues, vital for the upcoming 2024 elections, to include vetting election-related cyber incidents, sharing information on election-related cyber threats, and consulting with election officials on strategies to maintain cybersecurity. To date, four federal agencies, nine state agencies, 14 counties, seven other county agencies, 47 cities and towns, two tribal governments, four fire departments, 111 K-12 schools, and one public transportation partner have been onboarded to the AZ-ISAC's Slack information sharing channel and/or Malware Information Sharing Program (MISP). The AZ-ISAC also onboarded the Colorado Information Sharing and Analysis Center (CIAC), increasing communication between Arizona and Colorado.

The Threat Analysis Specialist (TAS) is a criminal intelligence analyst that specializes in Domestic Violent Extremists (DVE) groups and threats to public safety in Arizona and across the country. This TAS position is housed at the ACTIC and is available to assist and collaborate with all stakeholders. The TAS is responsible for coordinating and managing all the DVE information to ensure proper analysis is conducted and relevant intelligence is developed and disseminated to all the ACTIC stakeholders and other fusion centers. The TAS is the ACTIC DVE subject matter expert and utilizes all

available technology and databases in the ACTIC to identify and prevent DVE groups from targeting government buildings, government personnel, groups with opposing views, and/or elected officials. The TAS utilizes all ACTIC resources to vet and follow up on tips and leads, to conduct research, to store intelligence reports, to create bulletins and reports, and to disseminate information. The current TAS holds a top-secret clearance and will collaborate with the FBI to assess and prioritize current and emerging threats to public safety.

In addition to funding the three above-described critical employee positions, the federal grant funds are also instrumental in purchasing social media research tools that enhance the capabilities of our analysts. Recently, DVE groups have become a current and emerging threat to public safety in Arizona and throughout the nation. As with active shooter incidents, cyberattacks and the use of explosive devices are often discussed or referenced beforehand on social media. DVE groups often forecast their protests and/or activities over multiple social media platforms. Whether a group is discussing terrorism-related plans that may compromise public safety or an individual is posting a manifesto, this is more often being done online. There is an expectation from the public that law enforcement and, by default, fusion centers are looking for these online threats and taking action to mitigate those threats before they can be brought to fruition. With strategic support from AZDOHS, ACTIC has purchased a social media research tool currently shared with multiple agencies working at ACTIC to research threats to special events, government officials, government buildings, and critical infrastructure.

The ACTIC currently has a unit that researches open-source threats to life, terrorism planning, and public safety concerns online and reports it to law enforcement in the appropriate jurisdiction for follow up to mitigate or stop the threat. This social media research tool is very helpful in preparation for significant events, such as a presidential visit or national elections, to have continuous monitoring for threats by DVE groups leading up to and during the events. There are continuous online threats to elections through disinformation, deep fakes, and website defacements. These threats can be identified through social media research and would be more easily identified through a social media research tool that concurrently searches various social media platforms. More analysts researching for threats on more days enhance our ability to identify emerging threats, protect soft targets and significant events, and share information and intelligence in a timely manner. The social media research tool allows for focused searches for threats based on geographic location and keywords. This can be a force multiplier by providing online posts for consideration by the social media group to research further to determine if it is a threat. The social media research tool also facilitates looking for threats on the Dark Web.

DEI - Drug Enforcement and Investigations Bureau

The DPS DEI is a comprehensive, statewide strategy relying on teamwork and technology to secure Arizona borders and effectively address and combat transnational organized crime. DEI results are primarily measured through illicit drug and currency seizures, stolen vehicle recoveries, arrests, and investigations conducted by the collaboration of bureau personnel and other agency partnerships.

The DEI currently consists of the Canine District, the Southern Narcotics District, and the Northern Narcotics District. The DEI has established and maintains both formal and informal partnerships with various state, local, and federal agencies, allowing us to strengthen the

collaborative approach as outlined in the DEI mission to prevent, interrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations that breach the international border and exploit the State of Arizona through cooperative efforts and commitment from partnering agencies. Current intelligence and statistical data do not indicate a reduction in illicit drugs, stolen vehicles, and criminals engaged in border-related crimes, which continues to be a threat to Arizona and future challenges the DEI will face. Utilizing state appropriated funding and various grant/other funding, DEI is working to deter, disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations that are breaching our borders and exploiting the state of Arizona in furtherance of their criminal enterprises.

AZDOHS, as established in 2006 by the Arizona State Legislature, supports the mission of providing access to federal homeland security grant programs that will further enable DEI to respond, investigate and mitigate the threats posed by transnational criminal organizations. AZDOHS and DEI have a highly collaborative working relationship, as the AZDOHS manages grants for multiple agencies throughout the state, such as Operation Stonegarden (OPSG).

OPSG is a federal grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as part of the State Homeland Security Grant Program. OPSG provides funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to enhance their capabilities to support joint efforts to secure the borders of the United States. Funds are to be used for additional law enforcement personnel, overtime pay, general purpose equipment, and travel and lodging for the deployment of state and local personnel – among other applicable activities, to “improve overall border security.”

Under OPSG, FEMA distributes grant funding to states, which then make subgrants to local law enforcement agencies. To obtain funding, State Administrative Agencies (SAA) in eligible states review and submit applications to FEMA on behalf of local and tribal law enforcement agencies in their state or territory. FEMA reviews these applications and confers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding which applicants should receive OPSC funding. Funds are distributed based on the current “risk to the security of the border and the effectiveness of the proposed projects.”

As Arizona’s state administrative agency, AZDOHS coordinates the efforts of the Integrated Planning Teams (IPT) on all aspects of OPSG application, planning and de-briefings. In making grant funding recommendations, the OPSG IPTs consider various factors, including the need for funding to certain agencies based on the illegal activity occurring in an area and the impact that the funding will have within that area in combating transnational threats. Other factors such as the available staff of an agency, past performance under the OPSG, past compliance with reporting requirements and grant guidelines, the quality of the OPSG Budget Template and Justification may be taken into consideration by the OPSG IPTs in making allocation decisions.

As a grant recipient of OPSG, DPS works closely with AZDOHS to ensure grant funds are appropriately allocated to the projects listed on the application prior to reimbursement. Through AZDOHS’s guidance, they ensure we stay in compliance with the rules and procedures established by OPSG guidelines. Over the past three years, DPS has received over \$10,000,000 in OPSG funding. This funding is comprised of personnel-related costs including overtime, travel, and per diem associated with deployment of personnel to border areas, mileage and fuel costs, and other equipment.

DPS and the DEI support that AZDOHS remains a stand-alone agency. AZDOHS acting as an independent monitoring board, detailing activities, and statistics to track potential patterns of funding misuse at both the state and local level is imperative for any program's success. Arizona border security efforts require a variety of strategies and approaches to keep our communities safe, and these additional grants administered by AZDOHS provide resources needed to confront the complex and dynamic challenges that exist along the Arizona border.

Information Security

The DPS Information Management Bureau is currently standing up a new section specifically for information security. AZDOHS and their staff have mentored DPS and continually offer and provide their knowledge, skills, and relationships in the industry to help DPS be successful in its mission of providing public safety to the state of Arizona.

The united effort with AZDOHS has enabled our organization to enhance our security posture and provide common tools and best practices to secure our systems and data. AZDOHS provides DPS with the unique perspective, as a separate agency, of insights and lessons learned from their experience working with other federal, state, local and tribal agencies, and organizations. They have made available resources to allow our agency exposure to tools and practices that in turn allow DPS to be more efficient in the use of technology and strategies in the realm of information security.

WSB – Wireless Services Bureau

WSB has a phenomenal relationship with AZDOHS. As the communication technology expert in the state, we assist DOHS with grants and technical requests they have with the many agencies both governmental and non-governmental they work with. WSB also houses the statewide interoperability coordinator office that sits on the Senior Advisory Committee where we can utilize the many groups DOHS works with to make sure duplicated efforts or differing efforts for the same results are not being done, ultimately providing the stopgap to successful technology updates and significant taxpayer savings all for the greater purpose of homeland security in the State of Arizona.

DOHS has assisted in a lot of great communications solutions providing not only improved communications for an agency but improved interoperability between agencies.



ARIZONA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
7850 N Silverbell Rd, Ste 114-335
Tucson, AZ 85743
623-581-8596 (p)

www.azfirechiefs.org

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

On behalf of the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association please accept this letter of support advocating that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) remain a stand-alone agency.

Arizona Department of Homeland Security performs with efficiency and effectiveness within their grant management expertise to help fire service agencies acquire the necessary knowledge and training about the grant process to support these agencies in successfully submitting grant applications. This training and guidance provided by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has helped Fire agencies to be awarded homeland security funding throughout the years. In 2022 alone, AZDOHS supported funding to over thirty Fire agencies throughout the State of Arizona.

With the Arizona Department of Homeland Security being a stand-alone agency, they have been able to help Arizona Fire agencies not only acquire the necessary funding, equipment, and training to ensure a safer Arizona, but they have also helped to keep agencies compliant with the ever-changing federal guidelines.

Arizona Fire Departments along with the numerous other public safety agencies throughout Arizona have found that aligning our agencies with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, has created a vision of preparedness and safety for the State, and could not have been attained without the services offered by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at 623.385.2412

Tom Shannon
President
Arizona Fire Chiefs Association



Serve ♦ Develop ♦ Lead

State of Arizona

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Secretary of State



Dear Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman

The Arizona Secretary of State's Office has multiple functions, of which the highest profile duty is the oversight and administration of secure and accurate elections. In this mission, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDoHS) has repeatedly supported both this office, but also the Records' offices and Election Departments in all of Arizona's counties.

The hub and spoke model that AZDoHS has implemented via the Cyber Readiness Program is the gold standard for how states should be providing cyber security resources to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments. They can utilize their purchasing power to provide best-in-class security solutions free or at discounted rates to the smallest of our communities, who otherwise would lack these defenses.

AZDoHS has been a key component in our recent cyber security review and improvements of Arizona's state and local elections administration infrastructure. From facilitating pen tests, configuring security controls, and providing incident response they have repeatedly demonstrated themselves dedicated to our success.

Open lines of communication are critical to the success of the election administration community. If one county experiences a cyber security attack, it is an attack against all counties. This is especially true because all of Arizona's counties are linked through the technology platform that houses the state's voter registration database.

AZDoHS has facilitated the Arizona Information Sharing and Analysis Center (AZ-ISAC), a mechanism for all Arizona government entities to freely share threat intelligence. The elections community also utilizes this space as a virtual command center to rapidly support challenges during elections. Similarly, we have multiple monthly Statewide Election Security Meetings (SESM) that AZDoHS participates in as well as advises on the threat landscape and presents solutions.

Arizona is a leader in many sectors and our AZDoHS is part of the reason for our success. It is reassuring to know that as we face the challenges of future elections, that we have a partner who understands the gravity of the mission and is prepared to help ensure that we accomplish it. Please consider not only funding AZDoHS at its current levels, but expanding the resources allotted to it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Fontes".

Adrian Fontes

Arizona Secretary of State

State of Arizona

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Secretary of State



Dear Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Fontes". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Adrian Fontes

Arizona Secretary of State



January 12, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Hoffman:

I am writing to express our support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) as the agency responsible for promoting cybersecurity throughout the state. The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) benefits from AZDOHS in 4 primary ways.

- AZDOHS promotes increased collaboration, standardization, and engagement among all state cybersecurity staff by holding regular briefings to communicate information about active threats, new tools, and upcoming changes to existing statewide tools. ASRS cybersecurity staff regularly attend these meetings.
- AZDOHS establishes a strong cybersecurity foundation for the state by maintaining and publishing the statewide Information Security Policies, Procedures, and Standards documents. The ASRS refers to these documents to define our own minimum cybersecurity standards.
- AZDOHS SOC (Security Operations Center) staff protect all agencies from active cyber threats by monitoring all traffic entering and exiting the statewide network. The ASRS has recently designed our network to take full advantage of the additional network monitoring and intrusion detection capabilities the AZDOHS SOC provides. This service saves the ASRS staff time and money.
- AZDOHS provides a number of cybersecurity tools to agencies that save them money and administrative time. The AZDOHS-provided tools that have the greatest impact at the ASRS are: CrowdStrike (an endpoint security tool), Google Workspace (email, calendar, file storage), Tanium (another endpoint security tool), and Veracode (software development vulnerability scanning).

The ASRS appreciates the services and benefits provided to us by AZDOHS and encourages you to consider sustained funding and support for AZDOHS.

Respectfully,

Paul Matson
ASRS Executive Director

Jeff Hickman
ASRS Information Security Officer

January 12, 2024

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Representative Payne:

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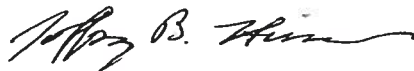
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Respectfully,



Paul Matson
ASRS Executive Director



Jeff Hickman
ASRS Information Security Officer



Bagdad Unified School District, #20

P.O. Box 427 • 500 Sultan Way, Bagdad, Arizona 86321

Phone: 928.633.4101 • Fax: 928.633.4345

www.bagdadschools.org

Randi Diskin, Executive Assistant
Carl Peterson, Facilities/Trans. Director
Christine Curiel, Student Activities

Mary Diehl, Finance Coordinator / HR
Beth Cummins, IT Software Director

Governing Board:
Amanda Armstrong, President
Natalie Webber, Clerk
Yady Carpenter, Member
Wayne Overson, Member
Brian Wallace, Member
Superintendent:
Bryan Bullington
Terri Aholelei, Business Mgr. / Grants Mgt.
Gary Cummins, IT Hardware Director
Tracie Loveall, Purchasing

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Regarding Arizona Department of Homeland Security:

I am glad for the support of the office of AZDOHS. Our school received the money and support to purchase software and services that will help us secure our data and protect our children from cyber threats. The products provided are much better than the ones we are using, and we did not have some of them.

It is very important to our schools and others to have AZDOHS looking out for our best interest in keeping our children safe from cyber threats.

Please keep funding and supporting the AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Gary Cummins
IT Director

BEAVER CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT #26
4810 BEAVER CREEK RD.
RIMROCK, AZ 86335
928-567-4631
FAX 928-567-5347

Karin Ward, Superintendent Allie Wheeler, Principal



January 15, 2024
Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Our hope is that this message finds you well. We appreciate your service to our state and especially your support of both K-12 education and a well-established and managed cybersecurity posture for the educational institutions of our state.

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated. In the past year that influence has been particularly felt as they offered leadership and resources to Beaver Creek School District No.26 and others around the state.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our district and our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. We commend the AZDOHS team to you for their commitment and expertise.

To that point, AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. Access to these resources and the expertise in coordinating their configuration and deployment is an extremely heavy lift for a small rural school district such as Beaver Creek. Yet, we all recognize the importance that a hardened cybersecurity posture offers in keeping network resources online in the support of our educational mission, not to mention keeping the private information of our students and staff protected from those who would like to exploit it to the harm of our constituents at great expense to a publicly funded institution such as ourselves. AZDOHS made a way for us

School Board Member

Jackie Harshman*Lincoln Thomasson*Susi Edgington*Jim Andrus*Carlos Ramos

to efficiently and effectively bring Enterprise level cybersecurity resources to bear in our situation without compromising the limited financial resources marked for our educational endeavors. Supporting AZDOHS is good stewardship for the state. Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, we consider it imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In conclusion, AZDOHS is not just a valuable partner, but an essential element of Arizona's security infrastructure especially for small school districts like Beaver Creek. To safeguard our state's future, I urge you to maintain the funding necessary to keep AZDOHS in a position to continue their support of this effort to all of our benefits. By investing in AZDOHS, we invest in the peace of mind and safety of every Arizonan. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. We anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,


Superintendent Karin Ward

School Board Member

*Jackie Harshman*Lincoln Thomasson*Susi Edgington*Jim Andrus*Carlos Ramos*



BENSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

360 S. Gila, P. O. Box 2287
Benson, Arizona 85602-2287
Ph. (520) 586-2211 Fax (520) 586-2520

Gregory Volker
Chief of Police



July 21, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Honorable Arizona State Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

My name is Gregory Volker, and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Benson, Arizona. If you are unfamiliar with Benson and the San Pedro Valley, we are a community of approximately 5,000 – 10,000 people depending on the season. Benson is 75 miles from the United States/Mexican Border and one of the major thoroughfares for the movement of undocumented aliens and illicit narcotics toward the more populated areas of the great State of Arizona.

In my 31+ years of law enforcement experience, I have rarely come across a state agency that is more supportive of rural and urban cities than the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. The City of Benson has multiple vehicles, traveling at break-neck speed, daily that involve US drivers and undocumented aliens. AZDHS and their supportive staff has helped the City of Benson participate in Operation Stone Garden, through funds for overtime and funding for vehicles that are specifically designed to thwart the trafficking of illegal aliens.

As the Chief of Police, I am extremely impressed with the AZDHS Staff, Specifically Interim Director Susan Dzbanko, Belinda Torres and Kim Brooks. Through their efforts, my staff and I have been extremely successful in protecting our community as well as ensuring that we are fiscally responsible with taxpayer's funds. Our partnership is vital for the safety of our citizens.

Arizona Department of Homeland Security needs to continue to operate as a stand-alone agency. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at gvolker@benzonaz.gov or my mobile number of 520-265-0007.

Respectfully

Gregory Volker
Chief of Police
Benson, Arizona

Buckeye Union High School District
1000 E. Narramore, Buckeye, AZ 85326
Phone: 623-269-1000
buhsd.org

INSPIRE MINDS TO CHANGE THE WORLD...EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

Buckeye Union High School District

Serving the Southwest Valley Since 1921

11 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative
Kevin Payne Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007

To the esteemed members of the Arizona Legislature Committee of Reference,

It is with unwavering conviction that I write to express my strongest endorsement for the continued and robust support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Their invaluable services, particularly in the realm of cybersecurity, have become an indispensable lifeline for every school district in our state.

We live in a digital age, where the very foundations of our education system rest upon the security of sensitive data of our students, staff, and the hard-earned tax dollars of Arizona citizens. To say that cybersecurity is critical would be a gross understatement; it is an absolute necessity. In this crucial domain, AZDOHS stands as a stalwart protector, a vigilant shepherd guiding our schools through the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats.

Without AZDOHS, Arizona would be woefully unprepared. School districts, already stretched thin by resource constraints, would be left to fend for themselves against sophisticated cyberattacks, a battle they are simply not equipped to fight alone. The consequences of such a scenario are unthinkable: compromised student data disrupted learning environments, and a chilling loss of trust in our educational institutions.

But this bleak picture need not be our reality. With AZDOHS by our side, we have hope. They have tirelessly developed and provided essential cybersecurity tools and support tailored specifically to the needs of our schools. Their expertise extends beyond simply offering technology; they actively partner with K-12 administrators, offering invaluable guidance and training, and fostering a collaborative spirit that empowers our school communities to defend themselves effectively.

The dedication of the individuals within AZDOHS is truly remarkable. Their willingness to go above and beyond, to answer every call for assistance, is a testament to their unwavering commitment to the safety and security of our children and our public institutions. They understand that a secure educational system is the bedrock of a thriving society, and they act with the urgency and determination this vital mission demands.

Buckeye Union High School District
1000 E. Narramore, Buckeye, AZ 85326
Phone: 623-269-1000
buhisd.org

INSPIRE MINDS TO CHANGE THE WORLD...EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

Buckeye Union High School District

Serving the Southwest Valley Since 1921

Therefore, I implore you, esteemed members of the Committee of Reference, to recognize the invaluable contributions of AZDOHS and continue to provide them with the unwavering support they need to continue their vital work. To turn our backs on AZDOHS would be to turn our backs on the future of Arizona's education system, and the safety of our children. Let us not make that mistake.

Let us, instead, stand resolutely with AZDOHS, ensuring that every school in Arizona has the resources and expertise necessary to stand strong against cyber threats. Let us invest in the security of our schools, in the safety of our children, and in the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Magann



**Executive Director of IT
Buckeye Union High School District
623-269-1020**

1000 East Narramore Avenue
Buckeye, Arizona 85326
P: (623) 269-1000
F: (623) 269-1025
www.buhsd.org

INSPIRE MINDS TO CHANGE THE WORLD...EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

Buckeye Union High School District

Serving the Southwest Valley Since 1921



Buckeye Union High School
1000 E. Narramore Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
P: 623-269-1100
F: 623-269-1125



Estrella Foothills High School
13033 S. Estrella Parkway
Goodyear, AZ 85338
P: 623-269-1200
F: 623-269-1225



Younger High School
3000 S. Apache Rd.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
P: 623-269-1300
F: 623-269-1325



The Learning Center
751 N. 215th Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
P: 623-269-2000
F: 623-269-2025

January 12, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I am writing to you to request the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) for the State and school districts, but ultimately for the Buckeye Union High School District (BUHSD). The program that has allowed BUHSD to increase our cyber security defense, both with amazing software and technical guidance, that most school districts in the State can't afford.

With our local funding focused on supporting the classroom, the incredible expense of the vital cyber security software compromises our ability to address it with proper IT staffing or equipment. Without the AZDOHS' assistance, we would be exponentially more exposed than we already are. Cyber threats are on the rise as the hackers know school districts have been traditionally weak in this area. The vital protection and training related to this program are becoming increasingly more important to BUHSD.

The benefits provided by the ASDOHS program can't be overstated. We need these resources more than ever, especially after receiving them and seeing the positive impact it is having our network. It has shined light on one of our weakest areas, and it would have taken years to get where we have over the past year without this program and funding. The entire State needs these services, but the school districts, like BUHSD, lack the funding and staffing to protect ourselves from cyber criminals without this assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeff Simmons
Associate Superintendent of Operations



Bullhead City School District #15

Office of the Superintendent
Bullhead City School District #15
1004 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, AZ 86442
928.758.3961 X1001

11 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

Bullhead City School District has a robust system for cybersecurity, thanks to a forward-thinking Director of Technology who consistently keeps us on the leading edge of recommended changes that come to us from the Arizona Risk Retention Trust which provides our liability insurance coverage.

The BCSD began participation in the Arizona Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity Program this past year. Thus, we have the following services which would otherwise cost the District tens of thousands of dollars per year:

- Multi-factor authentication for our Windows workstations
- Patch management to keep our systems up to date with security patches
- Endpoint protection – proactive security scanning, detection, and mitigation
- Internet web service protection to ensure that attackers do not compromise our systems
- Security awareness training and phishing testing

While the AZDOHS provides other services to citizens of the state, this service is critical to the safe operation of technology in our schools.

The BCSD encourages the legislature to continue the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as it has been operating.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Stewart



Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
8603 E. Eastridge Drive
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
Phone: (928) 772-7711
Fax: (928) 772-8800
www.cazfire.gov

August 3, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Senator Hoffman,

The Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA) has been a partner with the Western Regional Advisory Council (WRAC) since 2015. Since that time, we've continued to work together to ensure the safety of Arizona's citizens through grant funding law enforcement, fire, and hazardous material mitigation needs.

While terrorism at home seems a distant memory, we know that it is only a matter of time before someone attempts to attack our way of life again. To that end, it is vitally important that this program continues, and that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) remains a stand-alone agency. We need them focused on the challenges we face today, and the potential dangers we may face in the future.

Should you need anything additional information from me, please contact me via email at sfreitag@cafire.gov or by phone at 928-308-5130.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Freitag
Fire Chief



Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
8603 E. Eastridge Drive
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
Phone: (928) 772-7711
Fax: (928) 772-8800
www.cazfire.gov

August 3, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Senator Hoffman,

The Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA) has been a partner with the Western Regional Advisory Council (WRAC) since 2015. Since that time, we've continued to work together to ensure the safety of Arizona's citizens through grant funding law enforcement, fire, and hazardous material mitigation needs.

While terrorism at home seems a distant memory, we know that it is only a matter of time before someone attempts to attack our way of life again. To that end, it is vitally important that this program continues, and that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) remains a stand-alone agency. We need them focused on the challenges we face today, and the potential dangers we may face in the future.

Should you need anything additional information from me, please contact me via email at sfreitag@cafire.gov or by phone at 928-308-5130.

Sincerely,



Scott A. Freitag
Fire Chief



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8603 E. Eastridge Drive
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
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August 3, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Senator Hoffman,

I have been working in the Fire Service for 21 years and currently serve as the Assistant Chief of Operations for the Central Arizona Fire & Medical Authority in Prescott Valley, Arizona. I have been honored to serve on the Western Regional Advisory Council (WRAC) since 2015. As the current Chair of the Western Regional Advisory Council, I can affirm that we are a dedicated group of professionals working to mitigate homeland security issues at a local level. Members on the council include public safety partners from Mohave, Yavapai, and La Paz Counties.

From my own personal experience, the WRAC has served as an opportunity to gain exposure to homeland security needs outside of my own agency and build relationships with other public safety partners. As a member of the WRAC, we have worked to fund projects that demonstrate a terrorism nexus and improve the regional response capabilities of local specialized teams. This includes funding training and equipment for SWAT teams, HAZMAT teams, as well as Incident Management teams.

The response to terrorism continues to evolve at the local level and the efforts of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and the Regional Advisory Councils has improved the capabilities of agencies in our region, and specifically the Central Arizona Fire & Medical Authority. The response to active shooter events has evolved over the last several years, and with the help of the staff at the AZDOHS, we were able to receive funding to cover the initial cost for protective vests for each of our apparatus to protect our firefighters. This was only possible with the support of the AZDOHS staff. I am an advocate for continuing AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency because I believe this is essential to improving the response capabilities of agencies at a local level.

Sincerely

John Feddema, Assistant Chief
Central Arizona Fire & Medical Authority



Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
8603 E. Eastridge Drive
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
Phone: (928) 772-7711
Fax: (928) 772-8800
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August 3, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Sincerely

John Feddema, Assistant Chief
Central Arizona Fire & Medical Authority



January 11, 2024

Subject: Request for Continued Funding and Support for AZDOHS

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Honorable State Senator Jake Hoffman,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and to advocate for the continuation of funding for this crucial agency.

Since 2020, I have been actively involved in volunteering at Chabad of Scottsdale, an educational center and a house of worship of the Jewish faith. Through diligent efforts, and with the consistent guidance of AZDOHS we have successfully obtained and utilized grant funds, particularly the 2020 NSGP and the 2022 NSGP, to enhance the security measures for our many visitors and local members.

The implemented improvements, including bollards, security lights, cameras, impact-resistant doors and glass, access control, video intercoms, and life-saving classes, have significantly fortified the safety of our community.

Recently, we have expanded our impact by establishing a Jewish Yeshiva High School, we aim to further secure our schools buildings.

As we anticipate continued growth, we seek the continued guidance and support of AZDOHS in navigating the grant application process and adhering to the stringent project completion requirements. The expertise of AZDOHS staff would be invaluable in ensuring the success of our security initiatives and sustaining the safety of our community.

On behalf of Chabad and the thousands who come through their doors, I sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and kindly request your continued support for AZDOHS funding.

Together, we can reinforce the security infrastructure of our community and foster a safer environment for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our state.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melanie Roth, MBA
NSGP Liaison for Chabad of Scottsdale
cell 480.358.5155

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS

DEDICATED TO THE FURTHERANCE OF JEWISH EDUCATION

RABBI YOSSI LEVERTOV
DIRECTOR

DINA LEVERTOV
HEBREW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

10215 N. SCOTTSDALE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85253
TEL 480 998 1410

Rabbi@chabadofscottsdale.org
www.chabadofscottsdale.org

CHABAD PROGRAMS
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SHABBATONS
BAT MITZVA CLUB
SHABBAT & DAILY MINYAN
LIBRARY
JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE
JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE

January 11, 2024



Subject: Request for Continued Funding and Support for AZDOHS

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Melanie Roth, MBA
NSGP Liaison for Chabad of Scottsdale
cell 480.358.5155

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS

RABBI YOSSE LEVERTOV
DIRECTOR

DINA LEVERTOV
HEBREW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

10215 N. SCOTTSDALE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85253
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CHABAD PROGRAMS

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- LIBRARY
- JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE
- JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE

DEDICATED TO THE FURTHERANCE OF JEWISH EDUCATION



August 3, 2023

The Honorable Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senate
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman:

Please accept this letter of support for the continued operations and funding of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) as a stand-alone agency. The Chandler Fire Department (CFD) and the Chandler Police Department (CPD) both maintain vital relationships and connections to AZDOHS through a variety of interactions, programs, and multi-jurisdictional training opportunities.

The grant opportunities provided by AZDOHS allow for the continuation of many of the City's training, emergency management, and prevention assets and programs. These grants allow for the acquisition of necessary equipment for the Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO), Technical Rescue Team (TRT), and HazMat (Hazardous Materials) operations within the City, which support regional response efforts. Further, AZDOHS facilitates regional training exercises with a range of agencies to better address response capabilities within urban areas that CFD and CPD participate in.

CFD and CPD both maintain an active presence in regional committees, councils, and training exercise opportunities supported by AZDOHS. Through these groups and grants, Chandler receives Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) funding, as well as required FEMA courses to maintain compliance with federal initiatives.

AZDOHS provides support beyond grant opportunities, as it plays a significant role in supporting the City's emergency management efforts by offering multi-jurisdictional exercises to assess agencies' response to threats, hazards, and risks and identifying areas to improve upon. With its emphasis on regional training, grant funding, and emergency operations opportunities, AZDOHS plays a critical role in ensuring the success of regional response capabilities and should therefore remain a stand-alone agency.

Handwritten signature of Kevin Hartke in black ink.

Kevin Hartke
Mayor

Handwritten signature of Tom Dwiggins in black ink.

Tom Dwiggins
Fire Chief

Handwritten signature of Sean Duggan in black ink.

Sean Duggan
Chief of Police

City of Chandler

Location: 175 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler, AZ 85225 | chandleraz.gov



August 3, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Arizona State Senate
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Payne:

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Handwritten signature of Kevin Hartke in black ink.

Kevin Hartke
Mayor

Handwritten signature of Tom Duggins in black ink.

Tom Duggins
Fire Chief

Handwritten signature of Sean Duggan in black ink.

Sean Duggan
Chief of Police



CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 80

James T. Perry Administration Center • 1525 West Frye Road • Chandler, AZ 85224
(480) 812-7000 • FAX: (480) 224-9353

"Dedicated to Excellence"

Franklin R. Narducci, Superintendent

11 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Greetings,

I would like to formally express my support for the AZDOHS Team. Many of us school districts were spending a lot of time on our own trying to figure out and keep up with the evolution of network security as the threat to us has ballooned these past 2 years. The AZDOHS has helped immensely at bringing us together to discuss possible solutions and resources. Once the ball was rolling, some of us districts started meeting on our own or forming other groups for support. Initially there was a lot going on and the different types of protection needed were scattered but meeting with the AZDOHS crew and other small businesses and school districts we soon figured out where we landed on the network security maturity map, and most of us were not mature at all. The discussions pointed out what was needed most and then what was next from there. We are now more confident in our protection as a couple years have gone by and the continued discussions help us to see the trends and what to protect against next.

Due to the repeated meetings we had with everyone during this journey, we now meet and discuss other items not related to network security and that is fantastic as we compare software and hardware.

It is very necessary that the AZDOHS continue to operate in this fashion for us. They have become the common glue that helps the rest of us stick together and we rely on them for the latest security trends and updates, and tools to help us solve our own problems.



Scot Leatherman

Director of Infrastructure Technology

480-224-2089

Leatherman.scot@cusd80.com

Chandler Unified School District

The Premier District of Choice

www.cusd80.com

Christ's Church of the Valley
7007 W. Happy Valley Rd.
Peoria, AZ 85383

09 August 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) on behalf of Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV). CCV is one of the many sub-recipients of the 2022 NSGP Grant. Without AZDOHS, and its staff, CCV would not have been able to install bollards, cameras, impact resistance film, contract security and additional safety measures. These have been vital in protecting our attendees and staff. It goes without saying, numerous valley churches, have been subjected to different threats throughout the years. CCV, being a large church, is mindful of these threats. The additional cameras, contract security and the impact resistance film has enabled us to monitor DLRs and prevent unlawful entry onto our campuses. Furthermore, AZDOHS, has enabled us to collaborate with different public safety agencies and churches in the valley on enhancing safety measures and networking together for safety and threat alerts, through the NSGP grant. This is vital at not only preventing terrorist threats but even monitor potential sex offenders hoping churches.

All this could not be possible without AZDOHS. The support we have received has been tremendous. Without AZDOHS and their NSGP grant, many churches would not be able to fund the enhanced security measures necessary to keep their campus safe. This direct partnership with AZDOHS has helped churches and law enforcement work together to keep communities safe.

With this being stated, we believe AZDOHS should remain as a stand-alone agency. In doing so, AZDOHS will continue to have the ability and resources to provide grants to hundreds of non-profits protect their property. Furthermore, this will allow AZDOHS to continue to provide support to their subrecipients who are applying or received awards.

Sincerely,

Nikki Endresen

Nikki Endresen
Safety Administrator
P: (623) 561-3694 W: ccv.church



Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Thomas Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff
Cochise County



July 25, 2023

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007


Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Sirs,

In today's world, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (ADOHS) has become that agency where local, county, and state public safety officials turn to for information and funding to meet the National Priority Homeland Security Standards. ADOHS is that go between agency that is vital when dealing with the United States Department of Homeland Security. ADOHS gives all of Arizona's first responders the road map for planning and funds to prevent terrorist's attacks within our state borders. Operation Stonegarden Grant and the State Homeland Security Grant are just two examples of programs that provide that funding and support.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office and ADOHS have enjoyed a very successful professional partnership for decades. The ADOHS Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments Report and the State Preparedness Report have been spot on over the years and ensures the funding is being properly used addressing the issues identified in these reports. I strongly support the concept that ADOHS remains one of those cornerstone agencies within our state government to guide us in our fight against terrorism.

Sincerely,


Mark J. Dannels
Sheriff
Cochise County Arizona



COCONINO COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Eslir Musta,
Elections Director/
Assistant County Manager

Whitney Juszczak,
Elections Assistant Director

Margaret Penado,
Enterprise Risk Manager

Holly Roth,
Election Database Coordinator

Stan Pierce,
Elections Training and
Outreach Coordinator

Lynndel Custodio
Elections Specialist

Denise Anderson
Election Board Worker
Recruiter Coordinator

Ray Daw,
Native American Outreach
Coordinator

Todd Hare,
Elections Specialist

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Partnership support letter

Transmitted via email

January 11, 2024

I'm writing to express my deep appreciation for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in maintaining our state's safety. The impact of AZDOHS's work, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, is profound and far-reaching.

AZDOHS has demonstrated commendable performance in developing robust cybersecurity platforms for organizations like ours. These platforms have armed us with essential tools, enabling us to effectively counteract emerging cyber and physical threats. This has significantly fortified our digital and physical environments against potential vulnerabilities.

I also wish to emphasize AZDOHS's exceptional efforts in fostering communication among government entities, as exemplified by the Slack channel for Arizona Election Officials and Threat Liaison Office (TLO) personnel. This initiative has catalyzed collaboration among organizations, enhancing our collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively to potential threats.

As we navigate the upcoming elections in our State, the role of AZDOHS becomes increasingly critical in the face of evolving security threats. It is imperative that we continue to support and leverage the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

Please consider the multitude of benefits provided by AZDOHS and its indispensable role in our security infrastructure. Continued support and funding for AZDOHS will significantly bolster our resilience against threats and enhance our capacity to address a wide array of security challenges across Arizona.

Sincerely,
/s/
Eslir Musta

Coconino County Elections Center

1300 W University Avenue, Suite 180 Flagstaff, AZ 86001 | Phone: 928.679.7896 | elections@coconino.az.gov | www.coconino.az.gov



Emergency Management Department
2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004

"A safer future through effective partnerships committed to saving lives, protecting property, reducing the impact of disasters, and providing effective planning for special events."



Director
Wes Dison

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To: Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Date: July 24, 2023

Subject: Support Letter for Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)

I am writing to express my unwavering support for AZDOHS as they undergo this sunset review. In my current role as Director of Emergency Management for Coconino County, and as a concerned and engaged resident of Arizona, I firmly believe that AZDOHS is instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of our state and our citizens. I respectfully request the legislature to consider the continuation of the department's crucial functions, allocation of resources, and grant management.

During my 32-year tenure as a Commander with the Tucson Police department, I also served as the Emergency Manager for the City of Tucson, Administrator of the Tucson Urban Area Security Initiative (TUASI), and I oversaw administration of the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). I worked frequently with the AZDOHS on applications, awards, implementation, and reporting for both the SHSGP and the TUASI Grant process. Subsequently, as the Assistant Director/Operations Chief for the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, Emergency Management Division, I continued working with AZDOHS on many initiatives including the SHSGP, State Threats Hazards Identified and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and the State Preparedness Report (SPR). In my current position we continue to rely on AZDOHS and the Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) for allocation of SHSGP funds. I have been working with AZDOHS now for 20 years and have always trusted their program management and their council and guidance.

Working with the AZDOHS staff has been critical in providing tools, equipment, and training for first responders, and doing so within the stringent restrictions of federal grants. I have often sought advice and direction on how to apply funds, best practices, and policy development that ensured our continued eligibility. Currently, one of the most critical pieces we rely on AZDOHS for is the training dollars that are available through the SHSGP.



Emergency Management Department 2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004



"A safer future through effective partnerships committed to saving lives, protecting property, reducing the impact of disasters, and providing effective planning for special events."



While we could always use more, these funds provide first responders with the training and exercise opportunities critical to the life safety mission. Without these funds, and without AZDOHS serving the administrative role, Arizona first responders would not be as prepared.

The AZDOHS staff has consistently demonstrated their dedication to protecting our communities from a wide range of threats and emergencies. Through their proactive approach to Preparedness, Protection, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation, the department has effectively addressed various challenges with terrorism as the common nexus that could impact the well-being of Arizona's residents.

One of the department's greatest strengths is their ability to forge strong partnerships with local governments, federal agencies, private organizations, and community groups. I have personally worked with AZDOHS staff now for nearly 20 years. These collaborations have significantly enhanced the coordination and effectiveness of emergency response efforts across the state. Moreover, the department's efforts in community outreach and public education have been pivotal in promoting a culture of preparedness and resilience among Arizona's citizens.

Throughout the tenure of this department AZDOHS has continuously adapted their strategies and resources to counter evolving threats and emerging risks, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of security planning and implementation. By embracing cutting-edge technologies, innovative methodologies, and best practices, the department has set a commendable example for others to follow.

Furthermore, the department's commitment to fiscal responsibility is evident in their prudent management of resources. Their management of the DHS State Homeland Security Grant (Program) has always been consistent and fair. Serving as the pass-through agency for federal funding to the fifteen Arizona counties and other competitive organizations can be a challenge. The AZDOHS staff has always managed this program consistently and with transparency. By optimizing resource utilization, streamlining administrative processes, and fostering interagency cooperation, the department has demonstrated their ongoing commitment to efficient governance and transparency.

In conclusion, AZDOHS is an indispensable asset for the safety and well-being of our state and our residents. I urge the legislature to acknowledge the department's accomplishments, capabilities, contributions, and continued dedication to safeguarding Arizona. As an independent agency, AZDOHS has always remained focused on their mission, and the application of the funds they oversee. For those very reasons, I firmly believe they should remain a stand-alone agency. The role they play is so critical to our state, and I do not wish to see their level of expertise and focused attention lost in the bureaucracy of another larger state agency.



Emergency Management Department
2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004



"A safer future through effective partnerships committed to saving lives, protecting property, reducing the impact of disasters, and providing effective planning for special events."



I respectfully request your support for the department's renewal and the allocation of the necessary resources to enable AZDOHS to fulfill their critical mission effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your unwavering commitment to the safety and security of our great state. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes J. Dison".

Wes J. Dison

Director, Coconino County Emergency Management

wdison@coconino.az.gov

928-606-1286



Coconino County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jim Driscoll, Sheriff

August 24, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office has worked with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) since their inception, and we have cultivated a strong relationship. I have had the honor of being a board member and chairman of the Northern Arizona Regional Advisory Council (NRAC) and worked firsthand with AZDOHS staff. The staff not only assembles leaders of law enforcement, fire, emergency management and the Department of Homeland Security together, but also provides expertise and an understanding of the public safety and security needs throughout Arizona.

In working with the AZDOHS staff and the NRAC, we can efficiently and effectively fund equipment, training, exercises, and other collaborative efforts that directly benefit the public safety needs of the citizens of Northern Arizona. The Coconino County Sheriff's Office has received funding for several projects that work toward reducing core capability gaps in Arizona.

One such program which has been made possible by support from AZDOHS is the Coconino County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Since CERT began in Coconino County, we have conducted over 100 Basic CERT training courses, with over 1500 graduates. Support from AZDOHS allows us to launch public awareness campaigns to inform community members of potential threats to their areas, provide training for the community on individual and family preparedness, and build and sustain teams of volunteers who are willing and trained to support the community during emergencies. CERT in Coconino County provides that measure of community cohesion and resilience.

Over recent years, Coconino County public safety personnel have responded to numerous disasters and emergencies that have threatened the safety and welfare of the public. These have included wild land fires, massive floods, tornadoes, winter storms, a man hunt for a homicide suspect, missing person responses, and many more. Without quality interoperable radio communications and trained community teams, we would not have been able to provide the same level of service to our citizens during these catastrophic events.



"SERVICE TO COMMUNITY"



Coconino County
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jim Driscoll, Sheriff

I believe that it is imperative the AZDOHS continue as a stand-alone agency to continue the collaboration and judicious communication between the leaders responsible for the safety and security of Arizona and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The local leaders must have the ability to discuss and address first-hand the needs of their communities and develop relevant community strategies for emergencies and disasters. The Coconino County Sheriff's Office would not be able to fund many of the projects, equipment or training that is key to a community response to disasters and emergencies without the assistance of AZDOHS.

If you would like to speak with me further, please feel free to call me at (928) 226-5009 or email sheriff@coconino.az.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Driscoll".

Jim Driscoll, Sheriff



"SERVICE TO COMMUNITY"



COCOPAH TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
14540 South Veterans Drive
Somerton Arizona 85350



July 28, 2023

Jake Hoffman, Arizona State Senator
Kevin Payne, Arizona State Representative
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

I am writing today in support of our amazing men and women who represent our Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) office. I have had the privilege of working with AZDOHS personnel for the last thirteen years while managing our department's Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant and various grant opportunities that may come through their office that helps the Cocopah Indian Tribe. Any time our agency may have a question or concern related to a grant or potential funding source; AZDOHS has always made themselves available to answer any questions we may have. AZDOHS has always maintained a great working relationship with not only our agency but other law enforcement agencies within Yuma County.

Over the last few years our region has endured unprecedented immigration and illicit trafficking threats creating various public safety risks within Yuma County. Our agency was able to help mitigate additional public safety threats along the International Border while supporting United States Customs and Border Protection officials through daily OPSG deployments and situational awareness support from AZDOHS. Between November 2021 through March 2022 when undocumented immigrant crossing was at an all-time high, our agency was responsible for apprehending 6,164 undocumented immigrants within our OPSG area of responsibility within the tribal reservation along the International Border.

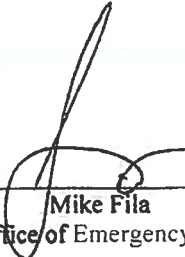
Our daily OPSG deployments continue to help USBP Agents when they are spread thin due to personnel or equipment shortages within the field. Our agency along with most law enforcement agencies within Yuma County would not be able to financially support collateral duties along the International Border without the ongoing support from our AZDOHS officials working tirelessly trying to find funding sources or grants to help address various issues or potential threats here in Arizona.

Situations and events mentioned within the letter of support illustrate the ongoing need to have AZDOHS readily available. This is why we strongly feel it is a necessity to have them continue to be recognized as a stand-alone agency which proves beneficial to all of our law enforcement representatives here within Yuma County.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul De Anda
Cocopah Public Safety Director



Mike Fila
Cocopah Office of Emergency Management



Lt. John McKinley
Cocopah Police Department



CONGREGATION

BETH ISRAEL

EST. 1920 | 5680

Stephen I. Kahn
Senior Rabbi

August 9, 2023

Sara Mason-Barkin
Rabbi and Executive Educator

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Seth M. Ellinger
Cantor

Robin Roeder
Chief Communal & Executive Officer

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Steven Bandler, President
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Laszlo Vaszar
Brian Weinberger

Honorary Life Board Members
Fran Frazin
Carol Reynolds

Dear Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Payne

It has come to our attention that a periodic review of state agencies is legislatively mandated to review the purpose and functions of an agency to determine whether continuation is warranted. We are writing to you to voice our opinion on the work that has been done by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, specifically by Cheryl Kennedy, Assistant Director - Community Preparedness.

Tina Bailey
Program and Events Manager

In 2019 we were made aware of the United States Department of Homeland Security Grant Program for Non-Profit Organizations, more specifically Religious Organizations. Congregation Beth Israel, Phoenix, founded in 1920, is the oldest Jewish Congregation in the State of Arizona. Being a Jewish Organization, we are constantly faced with the possibility of acts of Antisemitism. Each year the number of attacks on Jews and Jewish places of Worship grows.

Shaleen Hill
Director, Chanen Preschool

Jackie Huber
Director, Music

Rachael Kaplan-VanLandingham
Director, Jewish Learning and Youth Engagement

In view of the above, I personally took on the task of learning as much as possible about the Homeland Security Grant Program. My first live contact was with Cheryl Kennedy. She was most helpful in describing the Grant Program and how it could benefit Congregation Beth Israel.

Amy Kessel
Member and Administrative Services Manager

Stefanie Rozen
Director, Camp Daisy and Harry Stein

Our Congregation is located at 56th Street and Shea Blvd, Scottsdale, Arizona. The property covers approximately 3½ acres. Four buildings house the Main Sanctuary, Chapel, Executive Offices, Social Hall, Museum, Library, School Building and Day Care Center. Prior to working with Homeland Security, our Campus was totally "open" making it a soft target for acts of Antisemitism.

Jennifer Walker
Associate Director, Camp Daisy and Harry Stein

Catherine Walls
Controller

Terry R. Taubman
Executive Director Emeritus

10460 North 56th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480.951.0323 cbiaz.org





CONGREGATION

BETH ISRAEL

EST. 1920 | 5480

In 2020 we applied for and were awarded a grant to "Harden the Perimeter". This included the installation of 18 heavy gauge Steel Gates and electronically controlled driveway gates at our Shea Blvd. driveway.

In 2021 we applied for additional items to "Harden the Perimeter" but were not successful. In 2022 we once again applied and were successful in securing a Grant to complete the "Hardening". We are presently completing the work which includes a Controlled Access System for the Gates, a 21 Camera Security System, and Shatterproof Film for the windows on the Executive Offices and the Daycare Center.

Without the continued help of Ms. Cheryl Kennedy, her Staff and Homeland Security Webinars, we don't believe that Congregation Beth Israel would have been awarded the two Grants. It is a daunting task requiring many hours of research, securing three bids for each project, writing the Grant document, awarding Contracts for the projects, supervising the work, and filing all necessary documents with Homeland Security.

We, at Congregation Beth Israel, firmly believe that the Homeland Security office in Phoenix, Arizona, must continue to operate. The wealth of knowledge communicated by it is invaluable to all religious organizations in the Phoenix, Arizona area and should continue to operate, protecting us.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would make every effort to appear in person should that be needed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lubin, Board Member, Security Committee Chair

Robin Roeder, Chief Communal and Executive Officer

10460 North 56th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480.951.0323 cbiaz.org





Cheryl Kennedy <cbowen@azdohs.gov>

AZDOHS Letter

1 message

Israel Becker <yzbecker@me.com>
To: Cheryl Kennedy <cbowen@azdohs.gov>

Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 8:20 PM

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Payne:

It has been my pleasure to work in tandem with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security during the extended process of our grant application and successful implementation , as they helped us to make sure that we follow all of the guidelines established by the Federal Government.

Cheryl Kennedy has been continually available to our congregation in alerting us whenever needed and responding to any and every question. I have also enjoyed working with Michael Stidham and Rhonda Wellham who are always readily available to help us.

Needless to say, security is of utmost importance in the times we live in. With the support of the Federal Government and the hands-on assistance of the AZDOHS, our synagogue building is more secure. Worshippers and visitors are feeling more comfortable, and we are able to monitor goings-on for all sides of the synagogue building and campus.

When we needed a deadline extension, due to our unique needs and the difficulty of finding appropriate vendors, I was able to be in touch with the department directly, and they were immediately available to answer my questions and work with me. This contact was invaluable, and I don't know what I would have done with without them.

It's crucial to have human beings who could help us in a time when everything is automated. It is particularly crucial in dealing with security, that we could have contact directly with professionals who could provide answers and guidance.

Please make sure that this department continues so that our synagogue and all houses of worship in the state of Arizona can effectively implement very much needed security.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Israel Becker
Congregation Chofetz Chayim. Tucson,Arizona



Scotty Douglass
City Manager

Cottonwood Police Department

Pride, Honor, Dedication, & Integrity



Stephen Gesell
Chief of Police

July 19, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman,

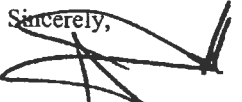
I am writing to voice my support for the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency. As a stakeholder this agency plans to continue their support of AZDOHS. These commitments are demonstrative of our investment in this invaluable asset. Without collaborative partnerships like this, Cottonwood and our neighboring cities would be ill-equipped to effectively address the influence of terrorist attacks and other critical hazards.

The Cottonwood Police Department, Sedona Police Department, Camp Verde Marshal's Office, and various other public, and private organizations benefit from equipment received from AZDOHS grant funds. As part of our mutual aid, and intergovernmental agreements, we would provide the data from this equipment to our federal partners, and other municipalities in the region. As a result of our proximity, and in consideration of the working relationships we have with others in this capacity, a mitigated risk to our City population would contribute to the overall safety, and security of our partner agencies and municipalities against terrorism-related activities. We have also established long-standing relationships with our community business partners that would also benefit from the use of equipment acquired, as part of our public/private sector partnership model. The public/private partnership is central to maintaining critical infrastructure security, and resilience. These types of partnerships have already been formed within our community, and equipment from these grants would help strengthen the shared goals of those partnerships.

Examples of specific incidents where equipment/funding supported positive results include the following; Cottonwood officers assisted with multiple investigations which include money laundering, and major drug trafficking cases. HSI partnerships with local police agencies like Cottonwood Police Department are critical in combatting organized crime, especially in the area of interdiction on our roadways. The magnitude of these early successes illustrate this point. Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) have magnified our ability to assist our federal partners in investigations where drugs or other contraband are being trafficked to, or through Eastern Yavapai County. The Automated License Plate Readers have, to date, assisted with Robbery & Burglary suspects, Silver Alerts, Child Abductions, Suspect arrests, and numerous Stolen Vehicle recoveries as a 'force multiplier'. The department has also acquired Portable Barricades and Bollards, Training Equipment, Drone and has deployed the SWAT gear that has been acquired at least 15 x times. Without these items it would make us unable to be mission ready.

These are just some of the successes within the Cottonwood Police Department that were directly related the support from AZDOHS. AZDOHS is an invaluable asset to our organization.

Sincerely,


Christopher Douvell
Acting Chief of Police
Cottonwood, Arizona
CD/jm



Scotty Douglass
City Manager

Cottonwood Police Department

Pride, Honor, Dedication, & Integrity



Stephen Gesell
Chief of Police

July 19, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Sunset Review

Dear Representative Payne,

I am writing to voice my support for the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency. As a stakeholder this agency plans to continue their support of AZDOHS. These commitments are demonstrative of our investment in this invaluable asset. Without collaborative partnerships like this, Cottonwood and our neighboring cities would be ill-equipped to effectively address the influence of terrorist attacks and other critical hazards.

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These are just some of the successes within the Cottonwood Police Department that were directly related the support from AZDOHS. AZDOHS is an invaluable asset to our organization.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dowell
Acting Chief of Police
Cottonwood, Arizona
CD/jm

Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District No. 6
1 N. Willard St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(928) 634-2288



Steve King
COCS
Superintendent

Jamie
Woodward
Curriculum
Coordinator

Dr. Trish Alley
Student
Support
Services
Director

David Snyder
Business Services Director

January 12, 2024

Arizona State
Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State
Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I am reaching out to express my support for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its crucial role in upholding the safety and security of Arizona.

The influence of AZDOHS's venture, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overlooked. Our collaboration with AZDOHS has been pivotal in fortifying our district's security. Through close cooperation, it is our expectation that cyber threats have been identified and have thwarted risks to our critical infrastructure and district services. The commitment, funding and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been very beneficial.


AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, making it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united school districts with government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, and unique funding sources, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats. Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is essential. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in

"Preparing students for the 21st century through tradition, innovation, experience and opportunities."

sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our district and its students, it is imperative that we continue investing in the funding mechanisms, resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS. In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our district's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our schools and students. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Kathy Epperson
Technology Director
Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District
1 N. Willard Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

"Preparing students for the 21st century through tradition, innovation, experience and opportunities."



Adventurous Thinkers • Collaborative Learners • Kind Hearted Leaders

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am reaching out to express my strong support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its vital services in upholding the safety and security of Arizona's state agencies. AZDOHS has been a critical partner in enabling and supporting the growth and improvement of Creighton School District's cybersecurity posture and is an enormous asset to Arizona's school districts and other state agencies.

Creighton School District is a small slice in the larger infrastructure of our state's services that require a strong cybersecurity environment to safely and effectively serve our communities. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified improvements to our systems and avoided numerous cyber threats that risk disruption to our critical infrastructure and services. AZDOHS consistently demonstrates a high level of commitment and expertise in building a collaborative cyber-community between Arizona's agencies. As a school district, we have been welcomed into the state agency security community through this agency's leadership. Our ability to participate in the state-wide efforts to improve cybersecurity has brought our school district and other K-12 districts in Arizona into a united environment where our government entities, large and small, jointly work together to bolster our critical infrastructure under the leadership of AZDOHS.

In our collaborative efforts with AZDOHS and under their strong leadership, we have improved our access to cybersecurity tools, gained the resources required to effectively implement and maintain those tools, and become part of a larger Arizona cyber-community in a collaborative spirit of safety and protection. Our cyber-posture has been dramatically improved and our ability to secure our data and infrastructure security improvements have made it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

The continued leadership from AZDOHS is critical to the ongoing success of Creighton School District's security and the entire Arizona state agency cybersecurity community. Cyber threats continue to evolve and develop, expanding and changing how state infrastructure is threatened. With AZDOHS's continued support and expertise, we are best equipped to continue the evolution of protection against such threats.

I urge you to strongly consider the key role that this department plays in maintaining our state infrastructure. Continued funding and support for AZDOHS will continue improving our state's ability to combat cyber threats but will lift all of our state agencies in knowledge, experience, and collaboration in cybersecurity.

Thank you for your commitment to the security and prosperity of the State of Arizona and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate the positive impacts of your continued support of AZDOHS. If you have further questions, please contact me at 602-381-6024.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Mann
Superintendent



Adventurous Thinkers · Collaborative Learners · Kind Hearted Leaders

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Representative Payne,

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Sincerely,

Jay D. Mann
Superintendent



Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical - Administration
41018 N. Daisy Mountain Dr. * Anthem * 85086
Phone 623*465*7400 Fax: 623*465*7632
www.DaisyMountainFire.org

August 9th, 2023

Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the excellent team at the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. It is my hope that AZDOHS will continue to provide their critical services as a stand-alone agency.

I'm David Maxwell, and I'm an Assistant Chief at Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical. We cover the communities of Anthem, Black Canyon City, Cave Creek, Desert Hills, and New River, in addition to major sections of the I-17 and surrounding areas. I've been very fortunate to work closely with Interim Director Dzbanko and her team since 2007 as I began to be very involved with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). I've also proudly served on the Central Region Advisory Council for the last several years. I'm currently on my 3rd appointment to this role. Daisy Mountain has also been very fortunate to have received multiple awards that have increased our ability to respond and protect the public. In particular, we've run some very high profile calls, including underground hazmat and technical rescues; a propane truck on fire underneath an underpass on I-17 that shut the freeway down for several hours as we safely mitigated that challenge, we were the first arriving hazmat unit that was funded by Homeland Security Funds to the new, multi billion dollar chip plant on a high rise fire with hazardous materials and several patients that needed emergency care, to name a few. We've also built, fostered, and strengthened our relationships and abilities to prevent, respond and safely mitigate a plethora of real-world threats as a result of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

In closing, I hope that the excellent people at AZDOHS continue as a stand-alone agency.

Please contact me with any additional info or questions.

David Maxwell
Assistant Chief

Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical
C 602.405.5668
dave.maxwell@dmfd.org

“Embracing our Heritage, Advancing our Future”

July 24, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Letter of Support - Continuance of AZDOHS as a Stand-Alone Agency

Dear Senator Hoffman:

This letter of support is submitted on behalf of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS), to continue as a stand-alone agency. The Douglas Police Department has participated in and directly benefited from two of the programs overseen by AZDOHS since nearly its inception; Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

The City of Douglas is located directly on the international border with Mexico, in the southeast corner of the state and is home to the Raul H. Castro Port of Entry; one of the busiest land ports in the state. The City experiences a daily influx of visitors and commerce along with challenges associated with human and narcotics smuggling. As such, the Department relies heavily on the AZDOHS grant funding which has not only supported or direct capabilities, but has also allowed us to support our federal partners in Customs Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Border Patrol (OBP) in their missions to protect and secure our border. Additionally, the Douglas Fire Department is a member of a regional HAZMAT team and is the only fire agency in the state that has an international agreement to provide HAZMAT and fire support in Mexico.

During my tenure and more recently as a new member of the Regional Advisory Council (RAC), I have had the pleasure of working with three different directors and their staff. Through these changes, the staff at AZDOHS has consistently remained professional, responsive, inclusive and transparent in the oversight of their programs. The efficiency and the level of accountability with which they perform their roles and responsibilities will undoubtedly suffer should their office not remain in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Kraig Fullen
Chief of Police

“Embracing our Heritage, Advancing our Future”

July 24, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Letter of Support Continuance of AZDOHS as Stand-Alone Agency

Dear Representative Payne:

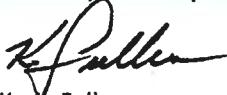
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Kraig Fullen
Chief of Police



DUNCAN VALLEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
903 SE OLD WEST HWY. P.O. BOX 39 DUNCAN, AZ 85534

"Professional Volunteers"

August 10, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Sirs:

Please consider my offer of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (ADOHS). We are a very small fire district in rural eastern Arizona, and our organization, along with the other public safety agencies in Greenlee County have been fortunate to receive grant funding from ADOHS for critical communications equipment.

With the funding received by ADOHS, we were able to be part of a radio communications system upgrade that bridged the gap between several of our local agencies, allowing clear communications where previous equipment was not interoperable. Last August, when the Gila River was flowing bank to bank, causing some flooding to parts of our community, this radio equipment was put to use by public safety officials across our county, from the communications center that is 35 miles away, to our boots on the ground who went door to door in the middle of the night alerting residents. In March of 2022, when we had a 100-acre wildfire burning in the bed of the Gila River, these radios were used to communicate with dozens of firefighters from 4 different fire departments working to contain the fire.

Without the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, and specifically the grant program that they manage, the communications between public safety agencies in our county would be difficult and would contain many gaps that could put any firefighter other public safety official in danger.

I do not believe the success of ADOHS would be as great as it is if they were tucked under the blanket of any other agency in the state and feel they should remain a standalone agency for that reason.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hayden A. Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hayden A. Boyd, Fire Chief
Duncan Valley Rural Fire District



8/15/2023

Subject: Letter of Support - Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Please accept this letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and their Statewide Cyber Readiness Program. The grant funding providing cyber resources is a game changer for most Arizona school districts. With 57% of all cyber attacks happening in the K12 environment, Dysart is grateful to AZDOHS for providing these resources at no cost to the district.

Dysart has worked closely with AZDOHS and their vendors to establish the required Multi Factor Authentication tool to meet Cyber Insurance requirements. This has vastly reduced the risk of account take over and provides additional security for our users and their accounts. Dysart is planning to roll out the other awarded protections throughout this school year.

Dysart appreciates our partnership with AZDOHS and the work they are doing to ensure all school districts have the means to protect themselves from a Cyberattack. Please allow AZDOHS to continue this endeavor as, for many districts, this is their only means of arming themselves against a CyberAttack and disrupting school operations that impact students, their families, teachers and district staff.

Sincerely,

Diana Hawari

Chief Information Officer

Dysart Unified School District

p: 623-876-7180 **m:** 623-522-7316

a: 15802 N Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 85374

w: www.dysart.org **e:** diana.hawari@dysart.org

s: Visit us on Social Media @DysartUSD

Power in the Preparation...Excellence in the Journey...Success for a Lifetime...

Governing Board: Chrystal Chaffin, Dawn Densmore, Jennifer Drake, Jo Grant, Christine A.K. Pritchard



City of Flagstaff

To:
Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in ensuring the safety and security of our great state. The positive impact of AZDOHS's efforts, particularly in the realm of cyber-security, cannot be understated.

Our longstanding partnership with AZDOHS has been instrumental in enhancing our state's security measures. Through close collaboration, we have collectively identified and defended against numerous cyber-security threats that could have had severe implications for our critical infrastructure and sensitive data. The dedication and expertise exhibited by the AZDOHS team in this domain have been nothing short of impressive.

One of the key areas where AZDOHS has excelled is in the establishment and funding of various cyber-security platforms. These platforms have provided essential tools and resources that enable us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements made through these initiatives have significantly bolstered our ability to safeguard our digital landscape, making it increasingly difficult for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems.

Moreover, the AZDOHS's commitment to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has proven to be a game-changer. This collaborative approach has allowed all local agencies, regardless of their size or resources, to work together seamlessly in protecting our critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has effectively enhanced our collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively to potential threats.

As we look to the future, the importance of AZDOHS's continued presence cannot be overstated. The landscape of security threats is ever-evolving, with cyber threats becoming increasingly sophisticated and pervasive. To maintain the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we continue to invest in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the numerous benefits that AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the vital role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Continued funding and support for AZDOHS will not only ensure our state's resilience against cyber-security threats but also reinforce our ability to respond comprehensively to a wide range of security challenges.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our state and its citizens. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,
CJ Perry
Director of Information Technology
City of Flagstaff



City of Flagstaff

To:
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Representative Payne,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in ensuring the safety and security of our great state. The positive impact of AZDOHS's efforts, particularly in the realm of cyber-security, cannot be understated.

Our longstanding partnership with AZDOHS has been instrumental in enhancing our state's security measures. Through close collaboration, we have collectively identified and defended against numerous cyber-security threats that could have had severe implications for our critical infrastructure and sensitive data. The dedication and expertise exhibited by the AZDOHS team in this domain have been nothing short of impressive.

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Moreover, the AZDOHS's commitment to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has proven to be a game-changer. This collaborative approach has allowed all local agencies, regardless of their size or resources, to work together seamlessly in protecting our critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has effectively enhanced our collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively to potential threats.

As we look to the future, the importance of AZDOHS's continued presence cannot be overstated. The landscape of security threats is ever-evolving, with cyber threats becoming increasingly sophisticated and pervasive. To maintain the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we continue to invest in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the numerous benefits that AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the vital role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Continued funding and support for AZDOHS will not only ensure our state's resilience against cyber-security threats but also reinforce our ability to respond comprehensively to a wide range of security challenges.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our state and its citizens. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,
CJ Perry
Director of Information Technology
City of Flagstaff



FRY FIRE DISTRICT

"Always Willing Always Ready"

10 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I trust this message finds you in good health.

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our esteemed state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,



Mark H. Savage, JD, EFO
Fire Chief
Fry Fire District

Mike Johnson – Chief Deputy
Sarah White – Chief Administrative Officer
Travis Baxley – Task Force Commander
Matthew Havey – Act. Lt. Northern District
Tim Scott – Lt. Southern District



Dennis Newman – Undersheriff
Ray Fulton – Detention Commander
Jared Osborn – Lieutenant
Vi Worthey – Lieutenant
Cindy Roberts – Lieutenant

Office of
Sheriff of Gila County
J. Adam Shepherd

August 9, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85507

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007


Senator Jake Hoffman and Representative Kevin Payne,

I have served as a member of the Eastern Regional Advisory Council and have been involved in Homeland Security projects for almost two decades. During my time with the Sheriff's Office, and now as the Sheriff, I have observed how important the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) has been to our citizens, my agency, and other agencies around Arizona to help enhance our mission of protecting the citizens of this state.

The Sheriff's Office has a regional dispatch center that provides services for the Globe Police and Fire Department, Tricity Fire District, Miami Police Department, and the Tonto Apache Police Department. Through a grant that was funded by AZDOHS, we were able to purchase the necessary equipment allowing the Sheriff's Office to move into the 800 MHz spectrum and update our dispatch consoles. This move has improved our communication, providing deputies and officers in the field with a reliable system and clear communication. This project enhanced the most important aspects of our job officer safety and providing the best service to our citizens.

The Sheriff's office has achieved several milestones with the assistance of AZDOHS. The projects and resources they have been able to provide to my office are invaluable. They need to remain as a stand-alone agency within Arizona, so progress can continue, and critical projects and funding will not be interrupted or complicated. AZDOHS is a valued partner for public safety agencies.

Thank you,


J. Adam Shepherd, Sheriff
Gila County



Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Date: 8/18/2023

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing express our support for the valuable service AZ Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) provides. Before writing this letter, I solicited feedback from Glendale's Security Operations team as they work closely with AZDOHS. Examples cited below provide a compelling rationale for continued investment and support of AZDOHS.

The Security Operations team at the City of Glendale has received extensive assistance from AZDOHS, as well as directly from Mr. Ryan Murray. Through phone, email, and the Arizona Information Sharing and Analysis Center (AZ-ISAC) channels, we have direct access to AZDOHS staff and received a wealth of support, guidance, recommendations, and coordination between the City of Glendale and other Arizona cities. Cities, just like private corporations, tend to be secretive about their infrastructure and cyber struggles. AZDOHS has been key in identifying common issues, risks, and solutions, and presenting that data in a way that ensures partner city privacy.

From AZDOHS staff, we've received critical and timely information on entities currently attacking Arizona cities, identities of compromised accounts used for spear phishing and impersonation, and flaws in our existing infrastructure that are actively being exploited. We've been able to leverage this information to make changes in our systems to block hostile email, stop connections to infected sites, and use information provided to examine our network to determine if we've already been compromised. Some of the information is so vital and timely that it is used to change Glendale security strategy within hours of us receiving the information.

While AZDOHS has been vital in understanding state initiatives involving Endpoint, Detection, and Response (EDR) solutions, Web Application Firewalls (WAF), and Endpoint Lifecycle Management solutions, their wealth of organizational knowledge and willingness to discuss and provide guidance on configuration issues where there is no readily available protection via Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) products, makes AZDOHS vital to the success of Glendale and its sensitive networks involving water utility, first responder, and traffic control solutions.

Three recent global events have severely changed the cyber security risk for all cities, especially those that manage utilities. The U.S. has expressed unconditional support for the ongoing autonomy of Taiwan. After previously invading Georgia, Russia invaded Ukraine making it well known their desire to reassemble a Russian Federation equivalent, or to exceed, the size of the 1980s Soviet Union. Large Language Model (LLM) Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems have made it possible to customize email phishing campaigns and ransomware to specific people becoming very difficult to prevent. Traditional security

5850 W. Glendale Ave. 623.930.2000
Glendale, AZ 85301



tools must be enhanced and continually returned to stop the threat of sudden loss of utilities which could lead to civil unrest not experienced on U.S. soil at this magnitude since the Great Depression.

Obtaining the type of support, we receive from AZDOHS via private industry channels would be an insurmountable financial burden. Police and Fire emergency communications, traffic control systems, and industrial control systems (ICS) all require unique specialties. AZDOHS provides professional guidance across all environments. We urge you and the committee to continue and maintain its support of AZDOHS to act as both the coordinating entity between Arizona governments and tribes and the subject matter experts for both cutting-edge security technology and attack mitigation.

Sincerely,

Feroz Merchhiya

Feroz Merchhiya
CIO/CISO
Glendale, Arizona

CITY OF GLENDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

To protect the lives and property of the people we serve



Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Glendale Police Department has been intimately involved with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) since its inception. Glendale was part of the original 5 agencies identified as a Rapid Response Team, capable and willing to be deployed anywhere in the state, with SWAT and Bomb Team assets to respond, mitigate and contain any incident requiring these assets, as requested by the state. Throughout my many years as a SWAT Commander and now as Chief of Police, the value in the relationship I have with AZDOHS has been indispensable. Through their support, expertise and guidance, we have continued to maintain our RRT capabilities, but also evolve and stay in line with state and national priorities.

The national homeland security grant process can be very cumbersome and confusing at times. The staff at AZDOHS has proven to be able to navigate their public safety partners through this labyrinth to be successful in obtaining grant funding to better serve our communities.

Our department has been able to leverage grant funding in the past that benefited not just the safety of the community but also my officers. We have been able to better protect critical infrastructure, liaison with other police and fire agencies through the TLO program and obtain necessary equipment.

In addition, our equipment has been requested by other agencies on significant incidents and we respond without haste and conversely, we have had incidents where we have requested and received support from other agencies equipment purchased with grant funding. These relationships with other agencies have also fostered joint training and combining of resources to better serve all our communities.

I believe that with the nature of grants and ongoing guidance by the federal government, it is essential that AZDOHS remain a stand-alone agency. This status will continue to allow for efficiency, timeliness and streamlined communication with all partners so we can all serve our state and communities with confidence and professionalism.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Briggs'.

Chris Briggs
Glendale Police Chief

6835 N. 57th Drive
Glendale, AZ 85301

P 623.930.3000
F 623.931.2103
W glendaleaz.com/police



January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Hoffman:

I hope this message finds you bringing in the new year with good health and happiness. The purpose of this communication is to express my request for your continued support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and their vision for all Arizonans to feel safe and secure. The efforts and strides that AZDOHS has made in cybersecurity are immeasurable and should not and cannot be overlooked; it affects everyone in every aspect of our lives.

Glendale Community College (GCC) opened a Security Operations Center (SOC), named the GSOC (Gaucho Security Operations Center) in August of 2023, the first of its kind in the state. The center provides graduating students the opportunity to gain competency-based workplace-ready skills by interning in a live SOC, which, in turn reduces the gap between academia and the workforce many employers are experiencing when hiring our students. In getting this established, we worked closely with the AZDOHS team, and they provided much needed information sharing and resources aiding in the successful launch of this endeavor.

The GSOC provides cybersecurity as a service to rural municipalities such as school districts and townships; those who are in need of cybersecurity services but do not have the resources to provide it. This service is free to the municipalities and creates a mutually beneficial partnership. It is through the assistance and work with AZDOHS that this was possible.

We rely on the collaboration and information and resource sharing from AZDOHS to continue to support our efforts in cybersecurity. By supplying various established cybersecurity platforms, it enhances our ability to teach and learn to prevent and protect against the ever growing and changing malicious attempts within our systems. The continued information exchange with AZDOHS improves our awareness to successfully protect and safeguard our infrastructure.

The expertise that AZDOHS has brought to our state is essential and it is imperative that it continues. I urge you to continue your support and funding for AZDOHS to sustain and



grow the much-needed protection against cybersecurity threats and address a broad spectrum of security challenges facing the entire state of Arizona. I appreciate your strong commitment to the security of the citizens of Arizona and look forward to your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Hall
Department Chair – Business, IT and Cyber



January 11, 2024

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Representative Payne:

I hope this message finds you bringing in the new year with good health and happiness. The purpose of this communication is to express my request for your continued support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and their vision for all Arizonans to feel safe and secure. The efforts and strides that AZDOHS has made in cybersecurity are immeasurable and should not and cannot be overlooked; it affects everyone in every aspect of our lives.

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The expertise that AZDOHS has brought to our state is essential and it is imperative that it continues. I urge you to continue your support and funding for AZDOHS to sustain and



Business & IT Department • 6000 W Olive Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302 • 623.845.3225 • www.gccaz.edu/academics/departments/business



**GLENDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



grow the much-needed protection against cybersecurity threats and address a broad spectrum of security challenges facing the entire state of Arizona.

I appreciate your strong commitment to the security of the citizens of Arizona and look forward to your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Hall
Department Chair – Business, IT and Cyber



CITY OF GLOBE
POLICE DEPARTMENT



DEFENDERS OF A NOBLE CAUSE

175 N PINE STREET GLOBE ARIZONA 85501- TEL (928)
425-5751- FAX (928)425-5094

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

When I accepted the appointment to Chief in Globe, I knew there would be challenges to update the department, however I was surprised by the incredible lack of equipment, training and overall capabilities that lay before me. What I found was a continued theme within first responder organizations throughout the region of limited funding to address these challenges. The most critical issue was overall communication capabilities and the inability for interoperable communications with other first responders. The significance of this is highlighted in the following incidents.

- Jammerz Bar mass shooting 2018
- GPD Officer involved shooting 2019.
- Telegraph Fire 2021
- Flood (result of Telegraph burn scar 2022)
- GPD/GCSO Officer involved Shooting 2021
- In addition, since 2018 we have worked 11 fatal accidents within the city limits of Globe.

These incidents highlighted the limitations and deficiencies we faced moving forward with technology and specifically communications both with the Globe Police Department and the surrounding first responders. Coming from a well-funded established major metropolitan agency did not truly prepare me for the enormous task of procuring equipment with funding shortages that lay before me in my new position. These tasks, which you would take for granted in law enforcement in the greater Phoenix area, are almost impossible for rural Police and Fire agencies.

Working with the surrounding agencies, we developed a focus on improving our communications system not just for the department but for the region. The agencies involved were the Globe Police



CITY OF GLOBE
POLICE DEPARTMENT



DEFENDERS OF A NOBLE CAUSE

175 N PINE STREET GLOBE ARIZONA 85501- TEL (928)
425-5751- FAX (928)425-5094

Department, Gila County Sheriff's Department, Globe Fire Department, Tri City Fire and Miami Police Department.

In 2020, we applied for a grant from AZDOHS, that would impact our 2021 Federal fiscal year. The grant was applied for in a total of three distinct stages. Stage one was from GCSO. The purpose of the grant was to upgrade their communication center and outfit their Deputies with new 800 MHz radios and equipment. Stage two was simultaneously applied for by GPD for 800 MHz radios for the officers and vehicles.

The Globe Police department was initially awarded \$70,000. Our objective was to replace outdated radios in each vehicle and each person's handheld. By the time the equipment order was placed, we had been awarded a total of \$80,000.

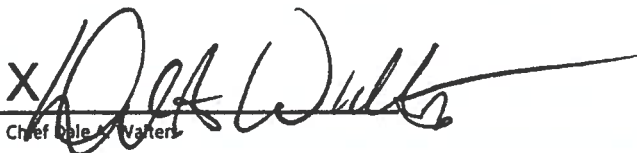
The personnel from the AZDOHS were incredibly helpful in guiding us through the process and helping us provide the needed information on the grant.

The third stage of the grant proposed in 2021, covering the communication needs of Globe Fire, Tri City Fire, and the Miami Police Department. Again, the assistance and guidance from the AZDOHS personnel was incredibly helpful and much appreciated.

All stages of the grant applications were awarded and as of this writing GCSO has implemented the new equipment and both GCSO and Globe PD have deployed the new radio system. For the first time in the history of the Globe Police Department we have full service anywhere in the city and beyond. We also have interoperable capabilities with surrounding first responders.

The radios for Globe Fire Tri City and Miami have recently arrived and are currently being programmed for deployment.

With the new radios, we have been able to increase our communication within the department and soon with all the surrounding agencies that we partner with. We are always looking for ways to improve our working relationships to better serve our community and this would not have been possible without the help of AZDOHS.

X 
Chief Dale A. Waters



GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTION DEPARTMENT
921 Thatcher Blvd., • Safford, Az 85546
Ph: (928) 792-5037 • Fax: (928) 428-5951
Hannah Duderstadt, Election Director
hduderstadt@graham.az.gov

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am reaching out to express my endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). It has a pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our state, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, which cannot be overstated.

Our collaboration with AZDOHS is crucial in fortifying our state's security. Together we collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats which posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The AZDOHS team is to be commended for the commitment and expertise they demonstrate in this realm.

AZDOHS excelled in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS' dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in

safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

The continued presence of AZDOHS is vital. Security threats are ever evolving, growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is crucial we persistently invest in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, please consider the indispensable role this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole State of Arizona.

I appreciate your commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens and thank you for your time and consideration of continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,



Hannah Duderstadt
Elections Director



GRAND CANYON EDUCATION

January 12, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman

Committee of Reference Co-Chair

1700 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne

Committee of Reference Co-Chair

1700 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Greetings,

It is with great enthusiasm, that I offer my endorsement for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS), and that I express my appreciation for their numerous contributions to both our organization and the communities I am a part of in AZ.

During my entire career in cyber, I have never seen a government team do a better job of supporting the community than we have all witnessed with AZDOHS. They have established best-in-class products and resources to protect the state, host informative events with rock star presenters, and engage the private sector in collaborative initiatives that make corporate entities such as GCE feel included and appreciated.

In a prior job, I was responsible for supporting threat prevention for western US and all of Canada for a large security firm, causing me to travel a lot and meet with a multitude of local government entities. Of all of the places I went and all of the states I met with, none were quite like AZ in terms of the level of engagement and collaboration. This astounding level of collaboration and engagement is guided and shaped by the AZDOHS, serving as the master conductors of the AZ cyber symphony.

The AZDOHS is a very essential part of the cyber readiness and defensive strategy for the state of Arizona, during a time where foreign adversaries deliver a continuous barrage of attacks that threaten to disrupt the continuity of our society and seek to interrupt our way of life. I am deeply appreciative of your ongoing support of AZDOHS and the value they provide to all of us in AZ.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. E. Manrod". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Manrod

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)

Grand Canyon Education

mike.manrod@gce.com

(602) 284-9421 <text message/do not answer calls>



3300 West Camelback Road | Phoenix, Arizona 85017 | 602-639-7500 | Toll Free 800-800-9776 | gcu.edu

10 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To whom it may concern,

This letter expresses our endorsement and support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Our endorsement is rooted in the commendable work carried out by AZDOHS in enhancing the security landscape of Arizona.

AZDOHS has demonstrated exceptional commitment in engaging with the community, offering invaluable resources, and collaborating on pivotal initiatives dedicated to safeguarding our state. Notably, events such as the AZDOHS Cyber Summit have played a crucial role in informing and educating us on paramount security topics. Furthermore, collaborative efforts, exemplified by our partnership on events like the Girls in Cybersecurity Event at the State Capitol, underscore AZDOHS's dedication to investing in the future cyber talent pool.

We extend our sincere appreciation for AZDOHS's contributions to the security of Arizona and for the invaluable support extended to our organization. Recognizing the significance of the services they provide, we consider the continuation of AZDOHS's efforts as indispensable for the security and preparedness of our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randy Gibb
Chief Academic Officer, Provost
Grand Canyon University

P.O. Box 936
Clifton, AZ 85533
Phone 928-865-2601
Fax 928-865-1929



P.O. Box 153
Duncan, AZ 85533
Phone 928-359-2866
Fax: 928-359-9068

Greenlee County Health and Emergency Management
Matt Bolinger - Interim Director

August 11, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

Thank you for what you do for the State of Arizona and all of us in Greenlee County. Greenlee County has been working with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) for over two decades. AZDOHS has been a close partner to all the Counties in the east region of the state throughout these years. Many of our critical projects and much of our critical infrastructure has had direct positive impacts by our partnerships with AZDOHS. The staff at AZDOHS has always played an integral part in our planning, mitigation, and response efforts for all emergencies.

Greenlee Counties current ability to respond to emergencies and threats would not exist without our partnership with AZDOHS. AZDOHS has helped to foster a team approach through our region and their staff has my greatest respect and appreciation. After two decades of working with staff at AZDOHS, I am in hopes that you will consider continuing this group as a stand-alone agency. Thank you both for your consideration and for making a group like AZDOHS possible and available for the Residents of Greenlee County.

Thank you,

Matt Bolinger
Interim Director
Greenlee County Health and Emergency Management



520.881.2323 Handmaker.org
2221 N. Rosemont Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85712

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To Whom It May Concern,

For the past several years, Handmaker Jewish Services has been working closely with the AZDOH to ensure the safety of our facility through security grant funding. Since 2020, we have been able to install ballistic wrap on windows, install security fencing, update security doors, and improve lighting and other ancillary security improvements. We feel that these measures have markedly improved our capabilities to prevent terrorist or disastrous incidents. Our Residents and Staff feel safer now than they did in prior years due to the security grant program.

Handmaker Jewish Services believes that AZDOH should remain a stand-alone agency. AZDOH has been incredibly responsive and helpful. Our experience with AZDOH has been top-notch, and we rely heavily on their guidance and expertise. Given that Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging is the only Jewish senior living and healthcare community in Southern Arizona, we can't emphasize enough how much AZDOH has done for our community during a particularly hostile time in our country.

Please ensure that AZDOH remains available as a stand-alone agency to assist communities like Handmaker.

Sincerely,

Travis Wissinger
CFO
Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΙΑΔΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ



Date: Friday, January 12, 2024

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Cc: Cheryl Kennedy (cbowen@azdohs.gov)

Dear Sir's,

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral has been the subrecipient of two awards under the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. AZDOHS administers this ongoing federal grant and assists the applicants in applying for funds for this grant.

Thanks to the two awards we have been able to add enhanced physical security and access controls to our school building and administrative office. We have a large campus that was the frequent target of intruders at night. Some of the funds we received were used to improve intruder detection and create deterrents across our campus. Funds from our last award further improved access control to the full campus and we have seen a decline in property damage since the project was completed.

Thanks to the grants we have been able to make visible public safety improvements to our church, school and community center. We have improved our ability to protect our parishioners, our school children, and the public in a way that allows us to be welcoming to all while protecting them.

AZDOHS is an agency whose purpose is the protection of the public from terrorist attacks and other critical hazards. AZDOHS accomplishes this by aiding and educating in the federal grant process. We have been the recipient of this education and been aided by the exceptional staff at AZDOHS.

AZDOHS also offers community awareness programs and preparedness resources from which we have benefitted.

We believe this level of expertise is an asset to Arizona and should continue as a stand-alone resource for our state.

Thank you.

Paul T. Katsenes
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



La Paz County Office of Emergency Management
Troy Mead NRP, CEP, BS
Director

tmead@lapazcountyaz.org
1108 Joshua Ave. ● Parker, Arizona 85344
(928) 667-4310 x 6018

August 20, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)

Dear Senator Huffman and Representative Payne,

The La Paz County Office of Emergency Management has worked closely with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) over the last several years. La Paz County is a rural county with only 23,000 residents, so we depend heavily on grants as a funding source. This year AZDOHS assisted La Paz County with hosting a Domestic Terrorist, Active Shooter training event. This event was called Public Safety Integrated Training. This brought multiple jurisdictions together to include local Police, Sheriff, Tribal Police, Fire and EMS. We were able to train over 60 Fire Responders. AZDOHS assisted La Paz County Emergency Management in coordinating this training and assisted La Paz County with equipment for this training, used by the First Responders.

Because of the mission that (AZDOHS) has, it is very important they remain a stand-alone agency.

History has shown in the Emergency Management world throughout the U.S. When agencies combine with another, the efficiency and collaboration relationships with counties suffer. The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) supported Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Being stand-alone agencies, because of their mission, being very different.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (928) 669-8753 or email Tmead@lapazcountyaz.org.

Respectfully,

Troy Mead

*Troy Mead NRP, CEP, BS
Director La Paz County
Emergency Management
1108 Joshua Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344
928-667-4310 x 6018 Office
928-503-6336 Cell
Email: tmead@lapazcountyaz.org*



OFFICE OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF WILLIAM PONCE

1109 ARIZONA AVENUE • PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
(928) 669-6141 • FAX (928) 669-2008


Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Az. 85007

Dear Senator Jake Hoffman,

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its benefit to the law enforcement community statewide. Since being established the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has provided a platform allowing the public safety community a place to seek funding for needed equipment and personnel to better serve the needs of its communities and citizens.

Through this partnership my agency alone has received multiple grants, more than a million dollars in funding over the years. Such grants have replaced old vehicles and equipment that were not able to be funded through internal budget processes. The equipment obtained has ranged from new vehicles, communications equipment, and license plate readers to enhance the safety and efficiency of first responders. These types of projects not only enhanced our response times for service, but they also further provided multi-agency communications and collaboration. The Arizona Department of Homeland Security has facilitated multi agency collaboration statewide through strategic planning of resources equipment and personnel on a much larger scale than was typically done in the past. It is with this in mind that I ask you to please continue to support the existence of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as a stand-alone agency.

Sincerely,


William Ponce,
Sheriff La Paz County



OFFICE OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF WILLIAM PONCE

1109 ARIZONA AVENUE • PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
(928) 669-6141 • FAX (928) 669-2008


Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Az. 85007

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Sincerely,


William Ponce,
Sheriff La Paz County



2330 McCulloch Blvd N
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Phone (928) 855-1141
Fax (928) 453-3312
lhcfire@lhcaz.gov



August 1, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Support Letter-Positive Relationship and Appreciation for Grant Funding

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere appreciation for the positive relationship and invaluable support the Arizona Department of Homeland Security provided to our organization. It is with great pleasure that I highlight the significant impact of our grant funding, particularly in reestablishing our hazardous materials team.

As you know, hazardous materials pose a substantial risk to public safety and the environment. With financial backing from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, we have revitalized and enhanced our hazardous materials team, ensuring a swift and effective response to incidents involving dangerous substances. This funding has enabled us to acquire the necessary equipment, provide specialized training to our personnel, and strengthen our overall preparedness for hazardous material incidents.

The grant support has been instrumental in reestablishing our hazardous materials team and has profoundly affected our organization and the community we serve. Here are some notable achievements resulting from this collaboration:

1. **Enhanced Response Capabilities:** The grant funding has allowed us to procure the equipment and resources to respond promptly and efficiently to hazardous material incidents. This includes protective gear, detection and monitoring devices, containment materials, and decontamination supplies. These critical resources have significantly improved our team's ability to effectively assess, mitigate, and manage hazardous material situations.
2. **Collaborative Partnerships:** The support from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has fostered collaborative partnerships with other local and state agencies involved in emergency response and public safety. Through joint exercises, information sharing, and coordinated response planning, we have strengthened our interagency relationships and established a unified approach to managing hazardous material incidents. This collaboration ensures a seamless and coordinated response, maximizing the effectiveness of our resources.



2330 McCulloch Blvd N
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Phone (928) 855-1141
Fax (928) 453-3312
lhcfire@lhcaz.gov



3. Community Safety: Revising our hazardous materials team has significantly contributed to our city and state's overall safety and well-being. By improving our response capabilities and preparedness, we can now mitigate potential hazards more effectively, minimize the impact of incidents, and protect the public from harm. The grant funding has directly translated into increased public safety and resilience in the face of hazardous material threats.

In closing, I thank the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for their continued support of our mission. Our hazardous materials team was reestablished with grant funds, improving our response capabilities and community protection. Our strong partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has contributed to our success, and we look forward to strengthening our emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Please feel free to reach out if you require additional information or if there are any opportunities for further collaboration.

Sincerely,

Peter J Pilafas
Fire Chief
Lake Havasu City Fire Department
pilafasp@lhcaz.gov
928-854-4257



Office of the Mayor

ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Hoffman:

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our esteemed state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and



support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

Litchfield Park has implemented the cyber security programs that have been offered through AZDOHS to strengthen our cyber security efforts. These programs are vital to the continuance of our cyber security.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Schoaf
Mayor



Office of the Mayor

ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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THE CITY OF
Litchfield Park

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I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Schoaf
Mayor



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Office of External Affairs:
Community, Government Relations
and Economic Development**

12 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Respectfully,

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our esteemed state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

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Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Daniel Barajas

Daniel Barajas
Chief Officer, Workforce & Economic Development Strategy
Maricopa Community College District

Chandler-Gilbert | Estrella Mountain | GateWay | Glendale
Mesa | Paradise Valley | Phoenix | Rio Salado | Scottsdale | South Mountain

2411 West 14th Street Tempe, Arizona 85281

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.



MARICOPA COUNTY

**Department of Emergency
Management**

5630 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

P: 602.273.1411
F: 602.275.1638

Maricopa.gov

August 15, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007


Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

My name is Robert Rowley and I am the Director of the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM). I have been in this position for almost 7 years and currently serve as Vice Chair of the Homeland Security Central Region Advisory Council. I am also the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee for the Phoenix Urban Security Initiative (UASI). Prior to that I was the Emergency Management Director for Coconino County, where I was on the Homeland Security Northern Region Advisory Council.

While in these positions over the last 11 years, I have had the opportunity to work with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security quite often. The SHSP and UASI grant process and administration is complex. Having an experienced cadre of professionals at AZDOHS handling this removes a tremendous burden upon the counties and cities throughout Arizona. Additionally, with AZDOHS acting as the grants administrator, it removes a great deal of the pretense of award favoritism that occurs when these grants are administered by a local jurisdiction.

During this Sunset Review process, I strongly recommend that you retain AZDOHS as a department. They perform a vital service for our public safety agencies throughout the state which helps our first responders spend more time on their mission.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Rowley
Director



**Office of Enterprise
Technology**

301 S. 4th Ave
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

P: 602.506.8742
E: lester.godsey@maricopa.gov

Maricopa.gov

August 16, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair

1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

My name is Lester Godsey, and I am the Chief Information Security Officer for Maricopa County. Representing the largest county in the state, we have a close partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. This relationship not only extends to the existing state grant program for security services and tools, but also includes regular cyber intelligence sharing, program development, and other activities of a collaborative nature.

As a result of our partnership with AZDOHS we have been able to proactively identify risks affecting not only Maricopa County but the state and region at large. We are planning on taking advantage of the statewide grant program this upcoming cycle as well. However, what is most important to us is the nature of the relationship between Maricopa County Information Security and AZDOHS. At a moment's notice we can reach out to one another as needed, without political or organizational concerns/constraints and focus on what is important to both organizations – ensuring that from a cybersecurity and physical perspective, we are all safe and secure.

The current organizational structure at the state level, with AZDOHS being separate from AZDOA has proven to be effective from my perspective here at Maricopa County. We hope the nature in which we collaborate with CISO Ryan Murray and his team remains consistent for years to come.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter and your continued support of physical and cyber security in the State of Arizona.

Respectfully,

Lester Godsey

CISO, Maricopa County



**MARICOPA
COUNTY**
RECORDER'S OFFICE

Office of the Recorder

Stephen Richer

111 S. 3rd Ave Ste. 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

P: 602.506.3535

Recorder.Maricopa.gov

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne:

The Maricopa County Recorder's Office submits this letter in support of the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as a stand-alone agency.

The AZDOHS has been an instrumental partner to the Recorder's Office. Their support has supplemented our efforts to proactively enhance the security of our staff and critical infrastructure. The AZDOHS has identified areas where our office can improve, providing valuable, actionable information and guidance for us to implement. They have held multiple training sessions for our staff. Additionally, they have provided financial support through grants utilized by our office to greater augment our cyber and physical security capabilities.

The AZDOHS provides this vital support to the Recorder's Office and various agencies across Arizona. They exhibit great dedication and attention to their assigned duties: to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Arizona residents have benefited tremendously through the existence of this Department. We encourage the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security so that Arizona can continue to enhance the security of its residents.

We thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Stephen Richer
Maricopa County Recorder



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Paul Penzone, Sheriff

August 4, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Paul Penzone
Sheriff
550 West Jackson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone (602)876-1000
www.mcso.org

Dear Senator Hoffman:

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has an outstanding relationship with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and has since its inception. This relationship has been built on a true desire to establish a prevention and response capabilities approach and to support and establish relationships and programs that have, and will continue to, integrate a regional all-hazards approach to homeland security in Arizona. The loss of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to continue as a stand-alone agency would be a significant setback to the safety and security of Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security has always provided guidance and direction to public safety/first responders and assisted in providing a comprehensive statewide risk assessment and an assessment of prevention and response capabilities. The Arizona Department of Homeland Security not only provides guidance and direction, but oversight of grant projects to include financial, audits and progress reports. These reports and audits identify where the state is at and what is needed to prevent terrorist attacks and reduce Arizona's vulnerability to critical hazards and critical infrastructure.

The administration and management components of the federal Homeland Security Grant Program has funded a significant number of programs and projects that have dramatically increased not only the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office capabilities but the entire state. Some of the most recent programs that had a positive impact on the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the state are:

Domestic Violence Extremism Contract Analyst. The DVE Analyst has performed a vital role to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, regional and national partners to efficiently and effectively analyze data from open-source resources. The DVE Analyst stationed at the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) has increased our ability to identify, evaluate and analyze potential indicators of Domestic Violent Extremism within the Online/Open-source environment. This position has allowed public safety to adapt as needed to emerging threats. This was paramount during the 2022 Election Cycle. The DVE Analyst was able to timely identify and evaluate election related threats and provided accurate information/intelligence related to ongoing social unrest and DVE related activity. through a collaborate effort with regional entities the DVE analyst provided the intelligence to key stakeholders in order to mitigate the threat.



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Paul Penzone, Sheriff

The Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) program operates from the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC). The TLO program provides a platform for Federal, State, Local and Tribal representatives to share information related to local and global criminal threats and terrorist domestic or foreign incidents. The Arizona's Threat Liaison Officer program provides an expansive statewide network, that includes personnel from over 130 Federal, State, Local and Tribal public safety entities, which provides an effective and viable communication flow to and from the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office TLO program operates within an all-hazards framework and approach; recognizing that intelligence issues arise in connection with a wide variety of hazards and threats. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Threat Liaison Officer Unit has three main mission areas; intelligence collection and dissemination, Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources protection and On-Scene Support, to include playing a major role in Incident Management/Incident Command. This includes working and operating along side with County and State Emergency Management. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office TLO's have evolved into a highly trained group of subject matter experts in all three areas of these responsibilities and are deployed to all major planned and unplanned law enforcement interventions that include but are not limited to; High Risk Warrant Service, Barricaded/Hostage situations, Explosive Ordinance Disposal incidents, any and all SWAT callouts, Drug Lab interventions, School Threats, Election Threats, natural and man made disasters.

Because of the expansive network and skill sets of the Threat Liaison Officers, the TLO program has become the go to resource for the public safety community for information sharing, incident response and incident management/coordination.

Both of these programs were only made possible through the financial and operational support by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and their staff. The ability to collaborate with regional stakeholders to ensure the integration and support of these programs at a state level has been made successful because of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. The loss of this department as a standalone would be a significant setback to the safety and security of Maricopa County and the state of Arizona. The continuation to operate as a standalone entity is important so that the mission will not be complicated with additional responsibilities. The Arizona Department of Homeland Security has done an outstanding job of creating and maintaining cooperative relationships that have had a profound effect on the security and preparedness of Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Penzone".

Paul Penzone
Sheriff
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Paul Penzone
Sheriff
550 West Jackson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone (602)876-1000
www.mcso.org



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Paul Penzone, Sheriff

August 4, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Paul Penzone
Sheriff
550 West Jackson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
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Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Penzone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Penzone
Sheriff
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office



GOVERNING BOARD

Robert Downey, President
Torri Anderson, Member
AnnaMarie Knorr, Member
Patti Coutre, Member

10 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Ed. D

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony of the importance of maintaining the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and its Cyber Security division.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) has played a pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of the Maricopa Unified School District and other districts across the state.

The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

Our ongoing collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our district and state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of

Maricopa Unified School District #20

44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Maricopa, AZ 85138 | (520) 568-5100 | musd20.org

all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats. In the past year, our district has benefited from the ongoing monitoring of our endpoints through software called Falcon Sensor. AZDOHS requires immediate action and documentation of threats being contained. This level of involvement and accountability is helping to ensure that our network remains secure.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,



Christine Dickinson
Director of Technology
Maricopa Unified School District #20



Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Fire Administration
An Internationally Accredited Fire Department



August 10, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Az 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Az 85007

The Mesa Fire and Medical Department has benefitted from an exceptional working relationship with both the staff and leadership of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for more than two decades. That relationship has helped the City of Mesa better prepare to respond to terrorist threats, natural and man-made disasters as well as a global pandemic. Our citizens have been better served due to the hard work and commitment of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security team.

We have had many great success stories across our community thanks to the resources and assets that we have purchased and implemented using homeland security grant funding, as well as the level of training that we have been able to provide our members.

- Our Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue teams have been able to maintain a high level of training to be prepared to mitigate a broad cross section of emerging threats as well as purchase and utilize the most current equipment available.
- The deployment of our Base X mobile hospital sheltering system has greatly enhanced our treatment capabilities at large scale events across our region. We have used these assets multiple times over the last several years and been able to provide immediate medical treatment in a field hospital setting at remote events. We have had 4 witnessed codes at the Phoenix\Mesa Marathon and have been able to resuscitate all of them with these grant funded assets.
- The acquisition of auto ventilators through grant funding has been used across our community for many years to improve the outcome of our patients hundreds of times. At the onset of the global pandemic in 2020, Mesa Fire and Medical was able to provide those same ventilators to our hospital partners as they were seeing a nationwide shortage of needed ventilators to assist extremely ill patients in our region.

13 W. 1st Street
P.O. Box 1466
Mesa Arizona 85211-1466
480.644.2101 Tel
480.644.4460 Fax



**Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Fire Administration**

An Internationally Accredited Fire Department



- AZDOHS has assisted in facilitating the Regional Terrorism Liaison Officer program. Equipment secured through grant funding has allowed our department to participate in various regional events and has significantly strengthened our ability to work seamlessly across agencies with our regional police partners.
- The City of Mesa Information Technology Department has been able to acquire cyber threat software through grant funding. The software assists communities across the central region better detect cyber threats and helps to train employees to recognize changing risks.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security is a critical and essential partner for all Fire and Police agencies across the state of Arizona. They work tirelessly to build and support safety and security driven projects that continue to meet the needs of our region. All while working in an environment of constant changing and emerging threats. For these reasons and many more, I believe it is important that AZDOHS continue as a stand-alone state agency.

Respectfully,

Cori Hayes

Cori Hayes
Assistant Fire Chief
Mesa Fire and Medical Department
480-644-4429
Cori.hayes@mesaaz.gov

13 W. 1st Street
P.O. Box 1466
Mesa Arizona 85211-1466
480.644.2101 Tel
480.644.4460 Fax



Mesa Police Department
PO Box 1466
Mesa, Arizona 85211 1466

08 AUG 2023

Kenneth Cost
Chief of Police
Mesa Police Department
PO Box 1466
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466
08 August 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chairs
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)

Senator Hoffman & Representative Payne,

I am writing this letter to express my full support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its essential role in enhancing public safety and emergency response within our state. The Mesa Police Department has had the privilege of working closely with AZDOHS and its dedicated, professional staff for numerous years.

Our relationship with AZDOHS has been one of collaboration and mutual support, driven by a shared commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our community. Throughout our partnership, there have been significant outcomes achieved through the collaborative effort's between AZDOHS and the Mesa Police Department. Some of the more notable achievements include:

1. **Increased response capability:** AZDOHS has played a pivotal role in bolstering the Mesa Police Department's capacity to respond to various emergencies and crisis situations swiftly and effectively. Through their proactive approach to both the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Grant Programs (SHSGP), they have provided an opportunity for the Mesa Police Department to gain and sustain the ability to better respond to disasters, terrorist threats, and other critical incidents.
2. **Equipment and training supported by grant funding:** AZDOHS has effectively managed and overseen two significant grant funding programs: the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). This support has enabled the Mesa Police Department to acquire essential equipment and access cutting-edge training opportunities. One notable example of this support is the procurement of a

state-of-the-art bomb robot worth \$400,000 for the Mesa Police Department's Bomb Squad. This acquisition will play a crucial role in enhancing safety and effectively addressing potentially hazardous situations in the Central Region and the State of Arizona.

3. **Enhanced relationships and collaboration:** AZDOHS has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among various public safety and first responder agencies across the state. Their strategic initiatives have paved the way for seamless information sharing and enhanced coordination by establishing subcommittees and the regional advisory boards. Notably, the Mesa Police Department has been actively involved, with one representative holding a significant position as a board member of the Central Region Advisory Committee and another representative as a co-chair on the Prevention Subcommittee. This involvement further strengthens the partnership and collective efforts to ensure the safety and security of the region.

Considering the exceptional outcomes achieved through our partnership with AZDOHS, I firmly believe that agency should continue as a stand-alone entity. Their specialized focus on the federal homeland grant program is a true testament to the success achieved in the State of Arizona.

In conclusion, I support the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) as a stand-alone agency. Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Cost
Chief of Police
Mesa Police Department
480-644-3668



Information Systems

549 North Stapley Drive
Mesa, Arizona 85203-7297

(480) 472-0051 | fax (480) 472-0003
www.mpsaz.org/infosys

David Sanders
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
dbsanders@mpsaz.org

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and to provide an endorsement of its vital role in safeguarding our state against cyber threats and enhancing collaboration among local and state government entities.

As Chief Technology Officer of Mesa Public Schools, I have had the privilege of working closely with AZDOHS over the past year. Our relationship has been one of mutual respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ensuring the security and resilience of our state's critical infrastructure and information systems.

Their expertise and proactive approach have greatly contributed to our increased capability to defend against and respond to cyber threats. By providing invaluable resources, training, and guidance, AZDOHS is in the process of helping us to effectively mitigate risks and swiftly address potential vulnerabilities. The services and funding provided by AZDOHS directly support school districts that are struggling to make security a priority, leading to the prevention of potentially devastating cyberattacks.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's commitment to enhancing relationships, collaboration, and information sharing among local and state government entities has been commendable. Through their initiatives, we have witnessed a significant improvement in our ability to work together seamlessly, share critical intelligence, and pool resources to address complex cybersecurity challenges.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or if there is anything else I can do to support AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Sanders".

David Sanders
Chief Technology Officer
Mesa Public Schools

MOHAVE COUNTY MANAGER

Sam Elters, P.E., County Manager/County Engineer



P.O. Box 7000
Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000
Website - www.mohave.gov

Telephone: 928-753-0729
Facsimile: 928-718-4957
elters@mohave.gov

August 7, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007


Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am pleased to advise you that Mohave County has experienced an extremely positive and productive relationship with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). AZDOHS has done an excellent job in supporting Mohave County communities through funding opportunities to support first responders in cyber security, disaster planning, training, equipment acquisition and the execution of exercises. Through coordination and collaboration, the net result has been stronger regional capabilities and a better prepared mutual aid program within Mohave County. AZDOHS funding has also been instrumental in strengthening our regional interoperable communications which have increased responder capabilities and safety.

It is difficult to vision, completed or future projects, that contribute to Mohave County responder's capability growth without AZDOHS's functionality. As a stand-alone agency, the AZDOHS demonstrates the ability to be effective and efficient with a structured yet nimble approach. Mohave County would ask that strong consideration is given to maintaining the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and welcome you to reach out for any additional information that may assist decision making for the AZDOHS.

Best regards,



Sam Elters
County Manager, Mohave County



MOHAVE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



DOUG SCHUSTER
SHERIFF

August 7, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office would like this letter to serve as documentation of support to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. The Mohave County Sheriff's Office has had the ability to provide much needed equipment through additional funding by AZDOHS. Our working relationship with staff of AZDOHS has been positive and all efforts to serve the citizens of Mohave County. Equipment, training, and overall collaboration foundations have been enhanced by our relationship with AZDOHS.

Thank you for continued support and our professional relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Schuster".

Doug Schuster
Mohave County Sheriff



NAVAJO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & Preparedness
100 E. Code Talkers Drive
PO Box 667
Holbrook, AZ 86025
www.navajocountyaz.gov/Ready

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing to you today to provide my support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security during their sunset review. I have been a sub-grantee of AzDOHS for the last 15 years of my emergency management career and a member of the North Regional Advisory Committee for the 5 several years. My tenure on the NRAC has included 2 terms as the Vice-Chair.

During my career as Navajo County Emergency Manager, I have had the privilege to work with several members of the AzDOHS Staff who have shown the utmost professionalism in every interaction. They have provided support with information regarding grants, applications and Homeland Security issues in a timely and efficient manner. The grant funding has afforded our county to improve several projects especially the Citizen Corps Council which includes CERT, MRC and VIPs from around Navajo County. These trained volunteers are a key aspect to our ability to respond during any emergency. One example is the Joseph City CERT program who have on several occasions assisted the Joseph City Fire Department with fire fighter rehab, some search and rescue operations and emergency response to flooding in 2018. They have consistently trained on the equipment purchased along with the fire department staff.

Due to the Homeland Security programs, Navajo County Emergency Management has been able to provide training, exercises and planning efforts for our public safety agencies throughout the region and Navajo County. Being a rural county many of our agencies have budgetary constraints that do not allow them to travel out of the area or as often for the extremely important trainings that occur. Allowing the training to be provided locally allows for more participation throughout the region. In addition, planning and exercises have allowed all of our agencies to interact on a frequent basis which will of course allow them to be better responders in the long run.

I support AzDOHS remaining as a stand-alone agency as they are uniquely qualified in a very specific threat arena that will be necessary in the response and mitigation of terrorist threats in



NAVAJO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & Preparedness

P.O. Box 668

Holbrook, AZ 86025

(928)524-4163 ■ FAX (928)524-4787



the state of Arizona. If there are any questions I can provide answers for, please feel free to contact me at (928)524-4153 or catrina.jenkins@navajocountyaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Catrina Jenkins
Navajo County Emergency Manager



NAVAJO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & Preparedness
100 E. Code Talkers Drive
PO Box 667
Holbrook, AZ 86025
www.navajocountyaz.gov/Ready

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Representative Payne,

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NAVAJO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & Preparedness

P.O. Box 668

Holbrook, AZ 86025

(928)524-4163 ▪ FAX (928)524-4787



the state of Arizona. If there are any questions I can provide answers for, please feel free to contact me at (928)524-4153 or catrina.jenkins@navajocountyaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Catrina Jenkins
Navajo County Emergency Manager



Navajo County Information Technology

Ken Dewitt
IT Director
100 East CodeTalkers
Holbrook, AZ 86025

State of Arizona Department of Homeland Security Team,

I wanted to let everyone know that the use of the State funded cyber security programs for Navajo County has been a great investment. It has saved the County thousands of dollars and made the County infrastructure safer and more resilient. The collaboration between the State and County is essential in the battle for the safety of everyone. We need this funding to protect the citizens of Navajo County's data that is in our care.

We appreciate the help and teamwork between our staffs.

Thanks,
Ken

Ken Dewitt | IT Director

We are Navajo County

100 East Code Talkers Drive

PO Box 668 | Holbrook AZ 86025

Phone (928) 524-4404 | Fax (928) 524-4386

NavajoCountyAZ.gov | [facebook/NavajoCounty](https://www.facebook.com/NavajoCounty)

Teamwork | Accountability | Integrity



Navajo County Sheriff's Office
"Keeping the Peace Since 1895"

David M. Clouse
Sheriff

Holbrook (928) 524-4450
www.navajocountyaz.gov

August 7, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

As the Sheriff of Navajo County, it is my responsibility to the citizens of Navajo County to provide the utmost security. Navajo County has a strong partnership throughout the region on all levels including local, state, federal and tribal. These agencies continue to work together to serve and protect all the citizens throughout the region.

Grant funding for training and equipment has been a critical element to ensure the first responders are not only well equipped but ready to respond with the appropriate training and equipment.

First Responders from this region continue to work together and train together to prepare for any number of critical incidents and this would not be possible without the assistance from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

The team at the Arizona Department of Homeland Security continues to work with all the partners throughout the region as well as the other parts of the state to ensure the highest level of preparedness in Arizona. If AZDOHS were to be combined with another agency so many of the efficient practices that have been incorporated would be negated.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

David M. Clouse
Navajo County Sheriff

CITY OF NOGALES



July 28, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

This letter serves as a statement of support for the continued partnership of the Nogales Police Department (NPD) and the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS).

AZDOHS has provided support, guidance and training that facilitates the grant procurement process, which has fostered and maintained a positive professional relationship between both organizations.

AZDOHS has offered the NPD and other law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona with courteous professional assistance when managing AZDOHS funded grants. The funds from these grants provide the department; equipment, training and overtime funds that allows the members of the department to support the mission of Operation Stone Garden and other AZDOHS funded grants which in turn have a positive affect for the City of Nogales that benefits significantly by making it a much safer community for all citizens and visitors.

The support provided by the AZDOHS and other law enforcement agencies in NPD area of responsibility is critical to the department mission of continuing to provide exceptional service to the community. The support and outstanding service AZDOHS offers are appreciated by the department and the community who are supportive of the work NPD has done along with our continued partnership with AZDOHS.

On behalf of the Nogales Police Department (Chief Roy Bermudez) I offer our support to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and that this standalone agency continue to foster partnership and support law enforcement in future challenging endeavors. Please contact me at (520) 285-5803 if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Carlos Jimenez
Acting Police Chief

CITY OF NOGALES



July 28, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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On behalf of the Nogales Police Department (Chief Roy Bermudez) I offer our support to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and that this standalone agency continue to foster partnership and support law enforcement in future challenging endeavors. Please contact me at (520) 285-5803 if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Carlos Jimenez
Acting Police Chief



Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I hope this message finds you well.

I'm reaching out to express my strong support for the ongoing backing of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its crucial role in maintaining the safety and security of our state.

The impact of AZDOHS's efforts, especially in the field of cybersecurity, is significant. Our ongoing collaboration with AZDOHS has been vital in strengthening our state's security. Through working closely together, we've identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise shown by the AZDOHS team in this area are commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for organizations like ours. These platforms have provided us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have significantly improved our ability to secure our digital landscape, making it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and personnel.

Additionally, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has united government entities of all sizes and resources, strengthening our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is crucial. The security threat landscape is constantly evolving, with cyber threats becoming more sophisticated and prevalent. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it's imperative that we continue to invest in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

Given the numerous benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only strengthen our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but



also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Mike Treguboff
Director of Network Operations
Peoria Unified School District
mtreguboff@pusd11.net
623-486-6127



City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senator
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman:

I am writing to express my support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) to continue as a stand-alone agency.

As the Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Point of Contact (POC), I represent more than 40 public safety and emergency management agencies throughout Maricopa County. The UASI Program and the Homeland Security Grant Program administered through AZDOHS continue to provide millions of dollars annually to the state of Arizona and the Phoenix Urban Area.

AZDOHS holds an exceptional reputation throughout the State and across the nation, while providing oversight and management of all facets of the Homeland Security programs. AZDOHS has continued to provide leadership and guidance to the Phoenix UASI and serves as a national "best practice" model highlighting its effectiveness and efficiency. AZDOHS provides management support to programs like the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and continuing operational assistance for the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and the related Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) Program.

The Phoenix UASI relies heavily on the collaborative support and expertise of the AZDOHS staff to assist us in successfully navigating the comprehensive and complex federal grant funding environment. The long-standing relationships with AZDOHS are not only critical to ensuring our long-term success but serve as the cornerstone to our Phoenix UASI Program.

For these reasons, the Phoenix UASI would respectfully request the Arizona Department of Homeland Security remain a stand-alone agency so we may continue to work together towards our mission of safety and security for the Phoenix region and the state of Arizona.

Thank you for your time and attention and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-451-2516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "L".

Brian Lee
Director of Emergency Management
City of Phoenix
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management





City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Arizona State Representative
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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For these reasons, the Phoenix UASI would respectfully request the Arizona Department of Homeland Security remain a stand-alone agency so we may continue to work together towards our mission of safety and security for the Phoenix region and the state of Arizona.

Thank you for your time and attention and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-451-2516.

Sincerely,



Brian Lee
Director of Emergency Management
City of Phoenix
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management





City of Phoenix

OFFICE OF THE POLICE CHIEF

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senator
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman:

We express our support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to continue as a stand-alone agency. The Phoenix Police and Fire Departments have actively participated in the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) since its inception in 2003. Through this association, the relationship between the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments was born. In the following years, the HSGP has provided the platform to build new capacity and sustain capabilities spanning the entire public safety spectrum and homeland security environment. The intentional oversight and thoughtful, collaborative partnership with HSGP, has enabled the Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and multiple agencies throughout the state to increase their ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from significant incidents and emergencies as we move towards a more secure and resilient nation.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security funding has been used to dramatically enhance specialty and tactical capabilities across the entire Phoenix UASI. The increased integration of technological investments in tactical equipment within the Bomb Squad, Special Assignments Unit, Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center, and the Homeland Defense Bureau have all benefited from UASI funding, building increased resiliency within our region. Funding was used to provide timely and relevant training to enhance the state of readiness for multiple UASI agencies and has been essential to the unification of public safety efforts. These assets routinely provide regional support for large-scale events and significant incidents.

This was never more visible than earlier this year as the Phoenix region hosted Super Bowl LVII and was again thrust onto the global stage. The UASI funding acquired and administered by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security demonstrated in real-time the vital role planning and preparation have on a SEAR 1 National Security Event such as this. As a result of the outstanding collaboration with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and the many Phoenix UASI agencies, the State of Arizona was able to set the bar once again as the "Gold Standard" for hosting events like the Super Bowl.

On behalf of the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security should remain a stand-alone state agency. It should remain the State Administering Agency for the Homeland Security Grant Program. To combine or reassign this vital role with another agency risks losing focus on the critical mission of the HSGP. Under the guidance and support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, the Phoenix UASI has established itself as a program of national prominence due to its years of successful partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

As an agency, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has the institutional knowledge and nuanced understanding of the complex rules, regulations, and requirements vital to successfully navigating a comprehensive federal funding environment. The Arizona Department of Homeland Security is the conduit between the Phoenix UASI and FEMA as a lifeline to our ongoing success.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security has developed a well-organized, efficient, and effective process. We enjoy a resilient partnership built on trust, credibility, and open communication. The Arizona Department of Homeland Security lies at the very heart of our success. We sincerely hope to continue our relationship with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as a stand-alone agency focused on our shared safety and security mission for the State of Arizona.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL G. SULLIVAN
Interim Police Chief
Phoenix Police Department



MIKE J. DURAN III
Fire Chief
Phoenix Fire Department



City of Phoenix

OFFICE OF THE POLICE CHIEF

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Arizona State Representative
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Representative Payne:

We express our support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to continue as a stand-alone agency. The Phoenix Police and Fire Departments have actively participated in the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) since its inception in 2003. Through this association, the relationship between the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments was born. In the following years, the HSGP has provided the platform to build new capacity and sustain capabilities spanning the entire public safety spectrum and homeland security environment. The intentional oversight and thoughtful, collaborative partnership with HSGP, has enabled the Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and multiple agencies throughout the state to increase their ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from significant incidents and emergencies as we move towards a more secure and resilient nation.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security funding has been used to dramatically enhance specialty and tactical capabilities across the entire Phoenix UASI. The increased integration of technological investments in tactical equipment within the Bomb Squad, Special Assignments Unit, Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center, and the Homeland Defense Bureau have all benefited from UASI funding, building increased resiliency within our region. Funding was used to provide timely and relevant training to enhance the state of readiness for multiple UASI agencies and has been essential to the unification of public safety efforts. These assets routinely provide regional support for large-scale events and significant incidents.

This was never more visible than earlier this year as the Phoenix region hosted Super Bowl LVII and was again thrust onto the global stage. The UASI funding acquired and administered by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security demonstrated in real-time the vital role planning and preparation have on a SEAR 1 National Security Event such as this. As a result of the outstanding collaboration with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and the many Phoenix UASI agencies, the State of Arizona was able to set the bar once again as the "Gold Standard" for hosting events like the Super Bowl.

On behalf of the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security should remain a stand-alone state agency. It should remain the State Administering Agency for the Homeland Security Grant Program. To combine or reassign this vital role with another agency risks losing focus on the critical mission of the HSGP. Under the guidance and support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, the Phoenix UASI has established itself as a program of national prominence due to its years of successful partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

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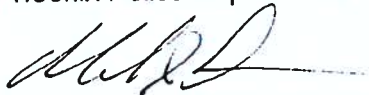
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MICHAEL G. SULLIVAN
Interim Police Chief
Phoenix Police Department



MIKE J. DURAN III
Fire Chief
Phoenix Fire Department

TOWN OF PIMA



PIMA POLICE DEPARTMENT

126 West Center Street
Pima, AZ 85543
Ph: (928) 485-9454
Fax: (844) 575-1219

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

July 23, 2023

This letter is to inform you about a concern brought to my attention. The concern being that if Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) does not remain a stand-alone agency we will lose our voice and representation in matters of funding and support. This same voice is being lost when voting districts for elected officials like yourself are changed.

The relationship between AZDOHS and the Pima Police Department (PPD) has been a highly successful working relationship. Together we have cultured the relationship for over 10 years. This relationship of working and understanding each other's needs has made PPD an essential part of border security and all the crimes against people and property that comes with it.

AZDOHS has funded PPD, needed equipment and payroll with proven results. PPD Officers while on Stonegarden assisting Border Patrol with the task of securing the border. PPD has assisted with human smuggling, drug arrests, stolen vehicles and many other crimes related to border security.

The funding of portable radios is one of the biggest assets for PPD. Quality radios allows PPD a push to talk communication with all the surrounding agencies. This gives PPD the ability to communicate and coordinate backup and manpower to neighboring agencies.

The funding from AZDOHS has allowed PPD to help secure the border. Human smuggling cases went from 20 cases in 2022 to 28 cases in 2023. Drug cases are at a similar rate of increase for this year, with Fentanyl being the main drug. There were times our law-enforcement efforts have turned into humanitarian aid.

The relationship between AZDOHS and PPD is so successful because of the direct understanding of the area they work in. We have the ability to communicate and understand each other's agency and needs. If AZDOHS is not a stand- alone agency PPD will lose its voice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Diane Cauthen".

F. Diane Cauthen
Chief of Police

TOWN OF PIMA



PIMA POLICE DEPARTMENT

126 West Center Street
Pima, AZ 85543
Ph: (928) 485-9454
Fax: (844) 575-1219

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Respectfully,

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F. Diane Cauthen
Chief of Police



Pinal County Law Enforcement Association

August 2, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Sirs,

The Pinal County Law Enforcement Association (PCLEA) would like to extend its full support to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). AZDOHS has been instrumental in providing support to each of our agencies by increasing our effectiveness in providing quality and efficient first response to our citizens.

AZDOHS has been the lead in the East Regional Advisory Committee (ERAC). They have spearheaded the East Region procuring 800 MHz portable/mobile radios, dispatch equipment and tower support supplies which has enabled the Pinal County and others to enhance radio communication throughout the state through the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). It has been their management that has equipped our agencies with the ability to respond to a mass casualty incident with surety and communication equipment that work interagency.

AZDOHS focus on six the (6) priorities within the East Region: 1) Enhancing the protection of soft target/crowded places, 2) Enhancing the information and intelligence sharing and analysis, 3) Combating domestic violent extremism, 4) Enhancing cybersecurity, 5) Enhancing community preparedness and resilience and 6) Enhancing election security) has been explicit. Our agencies receive briefings from AZDOHS Staff on the top priorities set by the grant on a steadfast basis. These briefings are informative and allow agencies to request software, supplies, training, and equipment that enable first responders the ability to ensure our citizens feel safe in the community they reside.

PCLEA – We are multi-departmental partners working collaboratively for the common good of Pinal County.

President

Chief Bruce Walls
Florence Police Dept.
425 N. Pinal Street
Florence, AZ 85132
(520) 868-7658
bruce.walls@florenceaz.gov

Vice President

Chief Frank Alanis
Superior Police Dept.
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Superior, AZ 85173
(520) 689-5255
Frank.alanis@pinalcountyaz.gov

Treasurer/Board of Directors

Chief Bill Pitman (retired)
Bill.pitman@yahoo.com

Secretary

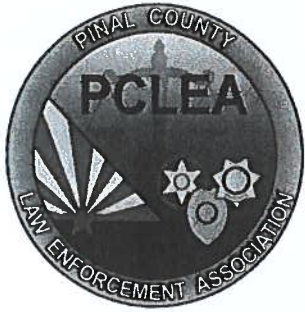
Mirela Borsan
Support Services Manager
Florence Police Dept.
425 N. Pinal Street
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Mirela.Borsan@florenceaz.gov

Board of Directors

Kent Volkmer
Pinal County Attorney

Chief Chris Vasquez
Eloy Police Dept.

Chief Greg Roberts
Central Arizona College



Pinal County Law Enforcement Association

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Mirela.Borsan@florenceaz.gov

Board of Directors

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Pinal County Attorney

Chief Chris Vasquez
Eloy Police Dept.

Chief Greg Roberts
Central Arizona College

Pinal County Emergency Management which is a member of our association has been the recipient of those dollars which funnels into critical incident multi-agency training—AZDOHS efforts have not only ensured we have the communication base to be successful, but they are also ensuring we have the means to practice significant events, so when they happen, we achieve the best possible outcome.

AZDOHS has emphasized the importance of cybersecurity in our agency defenses and because of that several of our agencies have been awarded software packages that prevent outside exposure to our secure information systems.

AZDOHS also acts as a liaison for us along the Southwest Border. Their efforts in moving Operation Stonegarden forward and providing our agencies guidance and resources through dollars allocated has enabled us the ability to fight crime entering the State of Arizona from across the border.

AZDOHS is a consummate partner. They are an active member of the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) Board. AZDOHS leadership understands that many of our agencies are located a substantial distance away from Phoenix, and many times cannot be present for those important intelligence meetings. AZDOHS ensures we get that information in their communications with us and more importantly that information is applied to the grant dollars they are responsible for allocating.

This group has been exceptional and a great partner for Pinal County and others.

PCLEA represents the Pinal County Attorney, Pinal County Sheriff, and Police Chiefs from 17 agencies:

1. Ak-Chin Police Department
2. Apache Junction Police Department
3. Arizona Department of Public Safety, District 6
4. Casa Grande Police Department
5. Central Arizona College Police Department

PCLEA – We are multi-departmental partners working collaboratively for the common good of Pinal County.



Pinal County Law Enforcement Association

President

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6. Coolidge Police Department
7. Eloy Police Department
8. Florence Police Department
9. Gila River Police Department
10. Kearny Police Department
11. Mammoth Police Department
12. Maricopa Police Department
13. Pinal County Sheriff's Office
14. Pinal County Attorney's Office
15. Superior Police Department
16. San Carlos Police Department
17. Tohono O'odham Police Department
18. Queen Creek Police Department.
19. Hayden Police Department

PCLEA is in full support of our partner AZDOHS.

Bruce Walls
President, PCLEA

PCLEA -- We are multi-departmental partners working collaboratively for the common good of Pinal County.



Pinal County Sheriff's Office

Mark T. Lamb
Sheriff

Matthew J. Thomas
Chief Deputy

August 7, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

I have served as Sheriff of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office since 2017. During that time, my agency has worked closely with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its staff.

Our federal partners count on PCSO to assist with a variety of missions, training, and knowledge, while my agency benefits through increasing its capability to respond to all types of incidents. This mutual partnership works extremely well for joint missions related to illegal trafficking of humans, illicit drugs, and search & rescues.

Just this past fiscal year alone, PCSO has been grateful to receive nearly \$5.3 million in Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grants through AZDOHS.

These funds translate into more overtime availability for my deputies, which allows them to work major trafficking areas, increasing apprehensions and seizures.

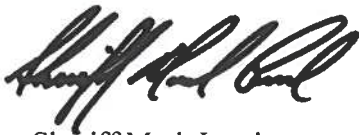
It also means additional equipment can be purchased for roadside investigations related to drug trafficking, and has cut down on our time spent during traffic stops. My Deputies are no longer waiting for interagency assistance for equipment, such as video scopes etc.

OPSG grant funding over the past several years has also allowed our Search and Rescue/Aviation Unit the opportunity to become extremely well equipped through the purchase of performance enhancing aircraft components. These tools enable PCSO to respond to Search & Rescue missions more efficiently and effectively, benefiting all citizens of Pinal County.

For example, in June of this year, the PCSO SAR/Aviation Unit responded to a small plane crash in a rugged mountain region of our county. Our team utilized the upgraded aircraft equipment to successfully perform search and rescue techniques other agencies in the state are incapable of completing.

AZDOHS, its staff, and our continued partnership is crucial to the future safety and security of Pinal County and our entire country. For these reasons and more, I believe that AZDOHS should continue as a stand-alone agency for years to come.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Mark Lamb



Pinetop Fire District
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd.
Pinetop, AZ. 85935
(928) 367-2199



July 24, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Senator Hoffman,

I have been working in the Fire Service for over 40 years and the Fire Chief with the Pinetop Fire District for the last 9 years. I remember the attacks on America that forever changed our country's way of life. Since that unprecedented event, the public safety community has remained vigilant in finding solutions and opportunities to be prepared for acts of foreign or domestic terrorism. I am honored to have worked with the Central and Northern Regional Advisory Councils (NRAC). These agencies receive funding to address local capabilities on readiness and preparedness. As the current Chair of the Northern Regional Advisory Council, I can affirm that our group of dedicated professionals is engaged in homeland security issues at a local level. This group works at managing the ongoing homeland security issues and projects for the public safety partners in Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties.

While not all inclusive, NRAC has tackled numerous projects such as the dynamic public safety communication problems ensuring interoperability, systems to enhance intelligence gathering for law enforcement, and implementing infrastructure assessments identifying vulnerabilities for vital infrastructure. These collaborative efforts bring together our public safety partners who understand the necessity of a singular team approach for response, preparedness, and readiness which is especially vital in smaller community response.

It is notable, that a cultural change in response to terrorism has been made possible through the coordinated efforts of Arizona's Homeland Security Office and the Regional Councils. AZDOHS office must continue to be a standalone agency to continue the work on real time intelligence, be responsive to the needs of the RAC's, and effectively mitigate the changing terrorism ecosystems such as cybersecurity daily attacks. As an end user of the funding for preparedness and as the Chair that sees millions of dollars of local project requests come through our region, success remains key through coordination with AZDOHS. Thus, I advocate for continuing AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency.

Sincerely

Jim Morgan
Jim Morgan, Fire Chief
Pinetop Fire District

Jim Morgan, Fire Chief

jmorgan@pinetopfire.com

www.pinetopfire.com



Pinetop Fire District
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd.
Pinetop, AZ. 85935
(928) 367-2199



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Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Jim Morgan
Jim Morgan, Fire Chief
Pinetop Fire District

Jim Morgan, Fire Chief

jmorgan@pinetopfire.com

www.pinetopfire.com



*Kathryn Gregory
City Manager*

Prescott Police Department



*Amy Bonney
Chief of Police*

August 4, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Reference: Support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security

I am writing this letter in support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AzDOHS) to remain as a stand-alone agency within the State of Arizona.

As a long time stakeholder in the grant process and as a current appointed committee member of the Western Region Advisory Council I firmly believe that the office of AzDOHS is an essential and vital part of our ability to protect our communities from the various hazards that have been identified.

During this time I have worked closely with staff members of this office, and I have always found them to be extremely knowledgeable, efficient, passionate, and always willing to answer questions. They have dedicated themselves to working in a collaborate way so that we can protect our community from various threats. If I have a question or need assistance in any way when it involves homeland security, I know that without a doubt I can call Susan Dzbanko or Kim Brooks and they will respond immediately with the information that is needed. We have built excellent working relationships with them and many other staff members over the years.

As a stakeholder we have applied for and been awarded several different grants over the last ten (10) years with the assistance and guidance of the AzDOHS office. Without those grant funds we would have significant gaps in our capability to protect our community from the threats and hazards that we have identified through the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) conducted by AzDOHS. This process has allowed us to plan appropriately, create mitigation strategies and identify gaps in our capabilities regarding the risk associated with specific threats to our region and community. In the West RAC, this process has always been guided by Susan and her staff and without their knowledge and commitment to Arizona homeland security we would have failed to close those gaps and exposed our community to unnecessary risks and threats.

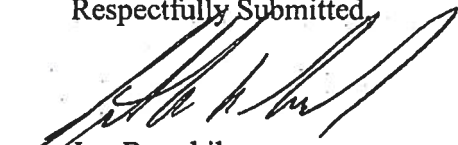
The regional approach to providing homeland security has strengthened our ability to work together with other agencies within our region that we had never worked with before. We have common threats and vulnerabilities within in our region and jurisdictions and participating in the West RAC has allowed us to work extremely well and to collaborate with other municipalities, county and even fire departments to share resources and ideas. In the Western Region we have very small rural agencies, working together is vital to our success and allows us to share resources which would not have been possible if we did not have guidance and leadership from AzDOHS.

Through the grant process we have benefited from specialized equipment for our Special Weapons and Tactics Team as well as funding for training and equipment for our Threat Liaison Officers. As a committee member I rely on the staff at AzDOHS to guide us during the grant approval process and keep us focused on the regional needs as well as the national priorities. Without their guidance this process would fail and much needed funding for smaller rural cities, towns and counties would not be available.

For the above state reasons, I fully support the office of AzDOHS and I urge you and the committee to vote in a manner to maintain their office as a stand-alone agency within the State of Arizona.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon Brambila
Deputy Chief of Police



PRESCOTT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
7601 E. SKOOG BLVD, PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ 86314
PHONE: 928.772.9261 • FAX: 928.772.2700



July 20, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007


Dear State Senator Jake Hoffman:

Please accept this document as a letter of support for the continuance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as a stand-a-lone State agency during your sunset review of the organization. As a sitting police chief, I have had the privilege and honor of serving on the West Region Advisory Council (RAC) . During my tenure, I have found the partnership with Homeland Security to be strong and collaborative. This agency brings public safety agencies together throughout this region by supporting collective goals to ensure a safer Arizona.

Our organization has secured funding through the grant processes provided through the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to add greater capacity to law enforcement technology such as license plate readers and drones to further keep Arizonans safe. Additionally, as a member of the RAC, I have seen not only law enforcement projects funded, but much needed projects for our firefighters, especially more rural and less funded agencies. These grant funds are vital to ensuring safety in our most rural communities of the region.

Lastly, representatives from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security act as a strong catalyst to bringing public safety agencies together to strengthen collaborative efforts and provide funding that can be leveraged by multiple agencies working together. When crisis and emergencies occur, and they do, public safety agencies must come together seamlessly and the partnership with this State agency contributes significantly to this collaboration.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to support the Arizona Department of Homeland Security during this important sunset review process. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

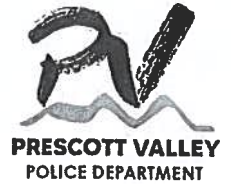

Robert L. Ticer
Chief of Police



PRESOTT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

7601 E. SKOOG BLVD, PRESOTT VALLEY, AZ 86314

PHONE: 928.772.9261 • FAX: 928.772.2700



July 20, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Ticer".

Robert L. Ticer
Chief of Police

PROFESSIONALISM RESPECT INTEGRITY DIVERSITY EXCELLENCE



QUARTZSITE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 2812 | 305 North Plymouth Avenue

Quartzsite, Arizona 85346 – 2812

Phone (928) 927-4644 | Fax (928) 927-5252


qpd@quartzsiteaz.org

Chief of Police Clay Romo



To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ. 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ. 85007

From: Quartzsite Police Chief Clay Romo


Re: Operation Stone Garden

Operation Stone Garden has been a tremendous successful grant that aids our department for overtime funding for our officers and gives our officers the opportunity to advance themselves in criminal interdiction by having more opportunities to deploy on Interstate 10, State Route 95, and the Town of Quartzsite to help prevent against clandestine activities.

We have had the pleasure of being granted Operation Stone Garden for approximately 3-4 years and hope there are many more to come. We have successfully arrested criminals for various reasons, some to include drug trafficking, weapon trafficking/weapon offenses, fugitives from justice etc. Our department's relationship with AZDOHS is outstanding. There is constant communication between the both of us to successfully complete the mission.

AZDOHS also granted us a vehicle for specialized Operation Stone Garden missions which aids us from constantly using our own patrol vehicles for deployments which aids on extended amounts of mileage and future mechanical issues. Quartzsite Police Department is a small department, and we are limited on vehicles but due to AZDOHS we have an extra vehicle to help with our deployments.

With AZDOHS granting us Operation Stone Garden, we have enhanced our relationship with other law enforcement agencies to work together against clandestine activities and help secure our borders and country.

This department is committed to AZDOHS and hopes to continue working with them for years to come. AZDOHS should continue as a stand-alone agency due to it assisting several agencies throughout the state to help better the agency, their officers and ultimately their communities they work for by allowing those agencies to have more opportunities to deter against clandestine activities which results in keeping the communities safer.

"Our Community...Our Commitment"



SAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

523 S. 10th Avenue
Safford, Arizona 85546
Phone: 928-432-4100
Fax: 928-348-3189

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senate
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Arizona House of Representatives
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Letter of Support – Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne:

As Chief of Police for the City of Safford Police Department, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). The Safford Police Department has worked with AZDOHS for numerous years and have received funding through the Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG).

Since 2008, the Safford Police Department has participated in the Operation Stonegarden Program. Funding provided by OPSG has proven to be immeasurable, not only for our agency, but for this region / community as a whole. While we are not considered to be a border county, we inherit the consequences of past and especially present issues that plague the border. OPSG enables us to “fill the gaps” in an attempt to slow down or deter the flow of illegal immigration and drugs into our area of the state. Over the years, OPSG has provided vital equipment in the area of communications, officer safety, and investigative which enable us to operate efficient, effective and safe with other agencies at the local, state and federal level.

The grant funding received through AZDOHS has enabled our agency to take on the additional task of combating issues that would normally be outside the scope of our primary work and abilities. Our agency, like many others across the state and nation, must constantly attempt to manage the balance between maintaining an acceptable level of service and limited budget. Without the assistance of AZDOHS and their grant programs, our agency’s ability to maintain



SAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

523 S. 10th Avenue
Safford, Arizona 85546
Phone: 928-432-4100
Fax: 928-348-3189

and/ or acquire equipment and funding that enables us to protect our community and officers would be substantially limited.

On a personal level, the staff across all levels of AZDOHS have been outstanding. Their guidance and unwavering assistance are top-notch and goes above and beyond. Anytime we require any type of service, whether it be in the form of questions or requests for additional information, their level of service exceeds expectations.

Our partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security is long-standing and invaluable. It is my opinion that the AZDOHS should continue as a stand-alone agency.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (928)432-4100.

Sincerely,

Brian Avila
Chief of Police
Safford Police Department





Cheryl Kennedy <cbowen@azdohs.gov>

St Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Safety and Security Grant

1 message

Raymond Wysmierski <rwysmier@gmail.com>
To: cbowen@azdohs.gov

Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 4:38 PM

To whom this may concern,

Our work with Arizona Department of Homeland Security has been stellar to say the least. The entire staff has been so helpful since we changed administrators mid project at the church. I was confused with the process however Cheryl, Rhonda and Michael were a tremendous help in completing the project. Without this award our church couldn't have completed a project of this magnitude. Our parishioners, staff and daycare could not feel any safer. Also the staff at AZDOHS made the process seamless and these awards need to be kept in place to afford others the same safety and security as our church. The staff is a blessing especially when dealing with a group of church volunteers. Please keep this effort moving forward. Thank you.

Raymond Wysmierski
President, Parish Council
St Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Peoria Arizona
Sent from my iPhone



**Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**
10005 E. OSBORN RD. / SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256
PHONE (480) 362-7290 / (480) 362-7260 / FAX (480) 362-7998
Salt River Fire Department



August 11, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Legislators,

My correspondence with you is to provide support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) as a standalone department in the Governor's cabinet.

Since the inception of the Office and subsequently the Department of Homeland Security for the State of Arizona, I have had the unique privilege of working with the Homeland Security staff in three separate Regional Advisory Councils – South, East and, most recently, Central. Concurrently, I have served as an appointed member on the Regional Advisory Council for two regions (East and Central), also being voted as Vice-Chairperson for two years in the East Region.

Over the years, I have witnessed a methodical and fair approach to identifying and bridging capability gaps for public safety agencies across the three Councils that I've been involved with. There is no doubt that these agencies and jurisdictions have benefited from the relationship with AZDOHS as its staff have created this approach through various tools such as the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR) in order to responsibly manage the Homeland Security grant funds received each year. The regional collaboration amongst these agencies have also allowed for grant funds to be maximized even as funding from U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been reduced over the years. Mutual aid agreements were put in place that were not there before so that jurisdictions could utilize equipment and personnel from neighboring agencies. Training & exercises have occurred across disciplines and jurisdictions which has increased the capabilities of multiple agencies instead of just one. The posture of AZDOHS over the years as a standalone agency has effectively made the public safety agencies in Arizona better prepared to serve the citizens and visitors of the State during any crisis, natural or man-made.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security should remain intact through this Sunset Review of the Arizona Legislature's Committee of Reference. Additionally, AZDOHS should remain a standalone cabinet level department in the Office of the Governor for continuity and efficiency's sake.

It is my honor and privilege to continue to serve the citizens of Arizona alongside the men & women of public safety as well as those in the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if I can provide additional accounts or details during your review process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Kmet', written in a cursive style.

Charles Kmet, CEM
Emergency Manager



January 11, 2024

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear State Senator Hoffman and State Representative Payne,

Please accept this letter as an offer of support for the AZDOHS remaining a stand-alone agency. Scottsdale Bible Church has been an award recipient of the USDHS/FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) for security enhancement projects at 3 of our 4 campuses in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

As the State Administrative Agency for the NSGP, the AZDOHS staff has been professional, accessible, responsive, knowledgeable, and has offered a level of assistance that was beyond expectation.

From broader scope camera coverage and access control to safety bollards and shatterproof glass, Scottsdale Bible Church has been able to improve its overall security efforts at campuses within the urban Phoenix area as a result of this grant.

In our experience, the AZDOHS, as a stand-alone agency, has delivered superior support in the administration of the USDHS/FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Marlene McCormick
Executive Director of Finance
mmccormick@scottsdalebible.com
480.824.7210



January 11, 2024

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brooke Dolph
Central Security Director
Scottsdale Bible Church
fdolph@scottsdalebible.com
480.296.6051

January 11, 2024

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Don Sullins
Central Facilities Director
Scottsdale Bible Church
dsullins@scottsdalebible.com
480.284.3211



January 11, 2024

To: Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne, Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Nicole Danielson
Security and Facilities Coordinator
Scottsdale Bible Church
ndanielson@scottsdalebible.com
480.937.1676



Fire Department

8401 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PHONE 480-312-8000
FAX 480-312-1887
WEB www.ScottsdaleFD.com

August 4, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Please accept this letter of Support for the continued funding and operation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) as a stand-alone agency. As the head of the Scottsdale Fire Department, I rely on the interaction and support of AZDOHS. I find the staff and support offered by the office to be knowledgeable, capable, and fully integrated into the local, state, and federal Homeland Security structure.

Arizona is recognized nationally as having one of the most capable and well-functioning homeland security systems in the country. Our ability to prepare for and respond to homeland security threats and events could not be as efficient as they are today without the coordination and expertise provided by the AZDOHS. This Department is a leader and a best practice when it comes to the very critical and complex aspects of Homeland Security issues and programs such as the annual Statewide Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and assisting in operating the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and related Terror Liaison Officer (TLO) Program, through which, Scottsdale Fire actively supports our citizens and the neighboring communities through regional collaborative endeavors.

There continues to be significant homeland security threats to the United States and Arizona. Without the coordination provided by AZDOHS the Arizona response system will not be as prepared as it is today to answer the call and continue to prevent and prepare for homeland security threats and events. It would be a mistake to decrease the ability of Arizona to prepare for, and respond to, future homeland security events. Downgrading AZDOHS capability or influence in any way will decrease our collective abilities. I urge you to support the continued funding and operation of the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at 623.385.2412.

Tom Shannon



Sierra Vista ARIZONA

EXTRAORDINARY SKIES
UNCOMMON GROUND.

12 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference
Co-Chair 1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

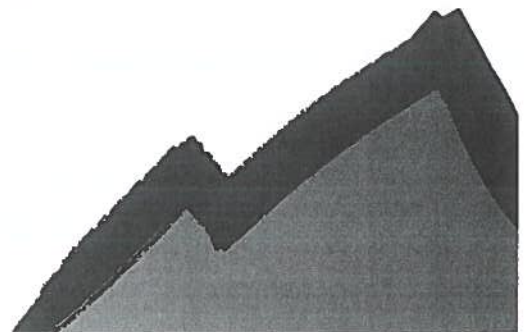
I am reaching out to express my strong backing for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its critical role in upholding the safety and security of our venerable state. The immeasurable influence of AZDOHS's undertakings, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overemphasized.

Our continuing collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in strengthening our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly exemplary.

AZDOHS has excelled, particularly in implementing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by smaller rural cities like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our cybersecurity portfolio and our ability to secure our digital landscape, making it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Moreover, AZDOHS's dedication to promoting statewide communication and

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
1011 North Coronado Drive
Sierra Vista AZ 85635
(520) 458-3315
www.SierraVistaAZ.gov



information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly connected government entities of all sizes and resources, strengthening our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a vigorous network of information exchange, AZDOHS has substantially improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is vital. The security threat landscape is ever evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and frequency. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we follow through with investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad of benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I implore you to strongly consider the crucial role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cyber threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our city, state and its citizens. I enthusiastically anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,

Abe Rubio
Chief Information Officer- CIO
City of Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520)458-3315 x2198
Abe.Rubio@Sierravistaaz.gov



Sierra Vista ARIZONA

EXTRAORDINARY SKIES.
UNCOMMON GROUND.

August 7, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne:


On behalf of the Sierra Vista Police Department, I wish to express our gratitude for the great working relationship our agency has had with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Over the last several years, AZDOHS has served as a catalyst for accessing additional funding sources for the Sierra Vista Police Department.

One particular example that has been both positive and consistent over the last several years has been the Operation Stone Garden grant that AZDOHS has assisted our agency in acquiring annually. AZDOHS has had a critical involvement in connecting local police agencies with this federal funding source. Operation Stone Garden funds have allowed our agency to work in a more coordinated fashion with our federal, state, and local partners to proactively target smuggling activity in and around our community. Coordinated Operation Stone Garden details have proven successful at ending "fail to yields" (vehicle pursuits) in a safer manner with resources that are working in sync with each other to target smuggling activity.

More recently, AZDOHS assisted the Sierra Vista Police Department in acquiring federal grant funding that will be used for the purchase of a new drone. This asset will enhance our ability to search large areas from the air, reconstruct accident scenes from aerial view, and safely secure areas during active threat assessments. Both the safety and efficiency our agency's operations will be enhanced with the new equipment.

The partnership with AZDOHS has been vital for a local agency such as the Sierra Vista Police Department and we request the state agency continues to be a mainstay that supports the endeavors of state and local law enforcement.

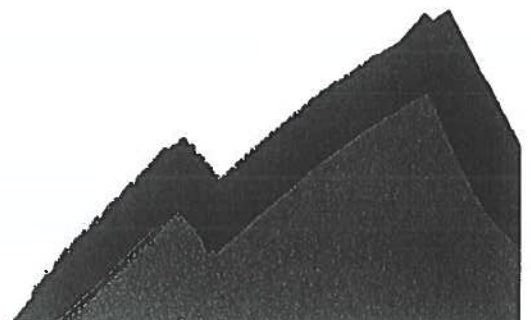
Sincerely,

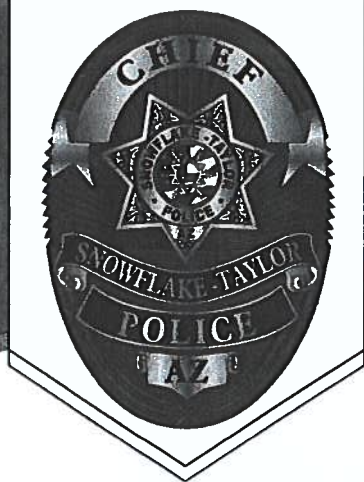

Christopher Hiser
Chief of Police

**CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

911 North Coronado Drive
Sierra Vista AZ 85635
520-452-7500

www.SierraVistaAZ.gov





August 1, 2023,

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Representatives Hoffman and Payne,

I would like to inform you of my support for AZDOHS to continue as a stand-alone agency.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working alongside a few agents and other staff of the AZDOHS and have always been impressed with their professionalism and knowledge of the needs and concerns surrounding the state of Arizona.

I currently serve on the board of the North RAC and work closely with several members of AZDOHS. They are uniquely informed and knowledgeable about the needs of the communities in Northern Arizona and are always willing to assist where they can.

Several projects have been funded that directly correlate to public safety within my area. Those projects have been completed with the help of funding from AZDOHS and they help ensure our first responders have the equipment for training as well as communications that they need to safely perform their tasks every day.

Again, please accept this letter as a show of my support to keep AZDOHS a stand-alone agency for the state of Arizona.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "R" and "M".

Chief of Police
Robert Martin



SOMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
445 E. MAIN STREET
SOMERTON, ARIZONA 85350



Araceli Juarez, Chief of Police
445 East Main Street
Somerton, Arizona 85350
aracelijuarez@somertonaz.gov
928-722-7326

August 1, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDHS) as a standalone Department. As the Chief of Police for the City of Somerton, I have closely observed the essential work the department carries out to ensure the safety, security, and resilience of our City, County, and this great state.

The Somerton Police Department has been involved with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for years. We have built solid relationships with department personnel, and work collaboratively to solve issues impacting the City of Somerton.

The Department of Homeland Security provides us with the ability to work in concert with local agencies, to develop protocols and response to issues impacting the local areas. Our local meetings are attended by our Federal Law Enforcement Partners, more specifically United States Border Patrol, Arizona Department of Homeland Security Staff, and representative from each Local Law Enforcement Agency. Their guidance and leadership in these meetings establish a team environment to solve issues related to critical infrastructure, and various threats, both foreign and domestic, along with emergency preparedness, counterterrorism, disaster response, cybersecurity, and border protection.

Over the years, I have witnessed the tangible impact of the department's initiatives in enhancing the safety and well-being of Somerton's residents. The



SOMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
445 E. MAIN STREET
SOMERTON, ARIZONA 85350



vital equipment provided under guidance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has allowed us to intercept activities of Transnational Criminal Organizations in the form of seized drugs, weapons, and persons entering the United States without being properly processed at a valid Port of Entry. We have utilized the provided equipment to identify and recover stolen vehicles, wanted persons, including homicide suspects and various other criminal activities.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and unwavering support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security as a standalone Department. We enjoy the direct contact with the Staff, and we always know who to call. We fear if AZDOHS is eliminated our efforts to support our community will be diminished.

As Chief of Police, I want to thank the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for their service and the invaluable work they do. I look forward to maintaining this relationship for years to come.

Sincerely,

A. JUAREZ

Araceli Juarez
City of Somerton
Chief of Police



To whom it may concern,

I am the Director of IT for Sonoran Schools which is a STEM-focused charter school system in Arizona. I came to this role in early 2022 from a private business. Upon arrival, I realized that we had limited cyber security in place and limited funding to implement much-needed measures. I was facing a time frame of several years to implement the tools we desperately needed.

I heard about the AZ Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Readiness program through the Arizona Department of Education newsletter. I immediately applied to be part of the program. The tools provided immensely improved our security posture. The program is forward-thinking and makes Arizona a safer place.

Cyber attacks on schools can have devastating consequences, not just for the school itself, but for the students and teachers who rely on the school's technology for their education. A cyber attack can disrupt classes, compromise sensitive personal information, and lead to costly repairs.

Additionally, with an increasing number of students relying on online learning during the pandemic, it is more important than ever that schools have robust cybersecurity measures in place to protect against potential threats. The cyber readiness program frees up school IT budgets to implement other security solutions, such as firewalls, camera systems, intrusion detection systems, and staff training.

I am a huge proponent of the Cyber Readiness Program. Investing in cyber security is an investment in the safety and education of our students, and it is essential for the well-being of our state. I know that our school system would never have been able to afford these tools without this program. I support the program wholeheartedly and volunteer on the task force. I am giving hours of my time every month to make this a success. I am grateful to the team at DoHS for having the foresight to create this program. They are a great group of people committed to making Arizona safer. The Department of Homeland Security stands out in my mind as a shining example of what a government agency should be to its citizens. Everyone in the state is safer because of their efforts.

I am happy to share my experiences with anyone considering applying. Feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Scott Yergensen, MBA

Director of Information Technology

Sonoran Schools



Information Technologies

10 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I trust this message finds you in good health.

I am reaching out to express my full support for the continued backing of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its crucial role in maintaining the safety and security of our state. The significant impact of AZDOHS's efforts, particularly in the realm of cybersecurity, cannot be emphasized enough.

Our ongoing partnership with AZDOHS has played a vital role in strengthening our district's security. The dedication and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in the field of cybersecurity have been truly commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for organizations like ours. These platforms have provided us with essential tools and resources, enabling us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have greatly improved our ability to secure our digital landscape, making it more challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and personnel. Moreover, AZDOHS's commitment to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, strengthening our collective efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly enhanced our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is crucial. The security threat landscape is constantly evolving, with cyber threats becoming more sophisticated and prevalent. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we continue to invest in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

Considering the numerous benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only strengthen our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the entirety of the State of Arizona. I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,
Albert Magallanez
Director of Information Technologies





Temple Beth Shalom

12202 N. 101st Avenue
Sun City, Arizona 85351-3543
(623) 977-3240

templebethshalomaz@gmail.com

www.tbsaz.org

RABBI

Dana Kaplan Ph.D.

January 11, 2024

CANTOR

Baruch L. Koritan

The Honorable Jake Hoffman, Co-Chair
The State of Arizona
Committee of Reference
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

PRESIDENT

Fay Henning-Bryant.

VICE PRESIDENTS

*Steve Bold-1st VP
Dennis Cutler
Sara Jane Feldman
Dave Katz*

Dear Co-Chair Hoffman,

RECORDING

SECRETARY

Carmen Berkowitz

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley, a 200- member Reform Jewish synagogue, is a current grantee of a Nonprofit Security Grant afford by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA and the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

TREASURER

Jon Werbel

I am sure you are well aware that synagogues are high-risk targets. The grant we received has enabled us to do the following: expand and upgrade our exterior cameras and lighting; install bollards in front of every exterior door; and upgrade our building security system and door locks. Most importantly, it has also enabled us to hire professional contract security so that we can have uniformed and armed security at our front doors during every worship service and for all special events. Many of our members are elderly and because of the increase in antisemitism, they were afraid to come to services and other events during evening hours unless we were able to provide armed security.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y.

Warren Bentkover

TRUSTEES

*Gloria Bold
Anne Burris
Bea Eisenberg
Russell Robbins
Nan Rubin-Lieber*

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Russell Robbins

BROTHERHOOD PRES.

Lane Ginsburg

SISTERHOOD PRES.

Roz Goldstein

SYNAGOGUE

ADMINISTRATOR

Helene Fox

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Charlotte Trujillo

I wish to speak to the incredible support we have received, primarily from Cheryl Bowman Kennedy, beginning with assistance she provided during the writing of the application for the grant, and through every other point during the period of the grant. We do not have a paid professional grant-writer or administrator: I am a volunteer. I needed help or information at numerous steps throughout this grant period and Cheryl was always there to provide it. She is extremely knowledgeable and responds to requests for assistance in an incredibly timely and understandable manner. To not mention other names is not to imply others at AZDOHS have not been helpful. Everyone has been. However, Cheryl has been the primary contact person.

From a grantee perspective, AZDOHS is extremely "customer oriented" and from a grant perspective, appears to be functioning extremely well. We are extremely appreciative of all the staff has provided us.

Sincerely,

Fay Henning-Bryant

Fay Henning-Bryant

Immediate Past President

The mission of Temple Beth Shalom is to fulfill and nurture the spiritual, social and educational needs of our diverse Jewish Community.



Temple Beth Shalom

12202 N. 101st Avenue
Sun City, Arizona 85351-3543
(623) 977-3240

templebethshalomaz@gmail.com

www.tbsaz.org

RABBI

Dana Kaplan Ph.D.

January 11, 2024

CANTOR

Baruch L. Koritan

The Honorable Kevin Payne, Co-Chair
State of Arizona
Committee of Reference
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

PRESIDENT

Fay Henning-Bryant

VICE PRESIDENTS

*Steve Bold-1st VP
Dennis Cutler
Sara Jane Feldman
Dave Katz*

Dear Co-Chair Payne,

**RECORDING
SECRETARY**

Carmen Berkowitz

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FINANCIAL SEC'Y.

Warren Bentkover

TRUSTEES

*Gloria Bold
Anne Burris
Bea Eisenberg
Russell Robbins
Nan Rubin-Lieber*

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Russell Robbins

BROTHERHOOD PRES.

Lane Ginsburg

SISTERHOOD PRES.

Roz Goldstein

SYNAGOGUE

ADMINISTRATOR

Helene Fox

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Charlotte Trujillo

I wish to speak to the incredible support we have received, primarily from Cheryl Bowman Kennedy, beginning with assistance she provided during the writing of the application for the grant, and through every other point during the period of the grant. We do not have a paid professional grant-writer or administrator: I am a volunteer. I needed help or information at numerous steps throughout this grant period and Cheryl was always there to provide it. She is extremely knowledgeable and responds to requests for assistance in an incredibly timely and understandable manner. To not mention other names is not to imply others at AZDOHS have not been helpful. Everyone has been. However, Cheryl has been the primary contact person.

From a grantee perspective, AZDOHS is extremely "customer oriented" and from a grant perspective, appears to be functioning extremely well. We are extremely appreciative of all the staff has provided us.

Sincerely,

Fay Henning-Bryant

Fay Henning-Bryant

Immediate Past President

The mission of Temple Beth Shalom is to fulfill and nurture the spiritual, social and educational needs of our diverse Jewish Community.



Chief Shaffen D. Woods
3700 W. MAIN STREET, THATCHER, AZ 85552 - (928) 428-2296 - FAX (928) 428-2040

July 20, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: AZDOHS Letter of Support

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. On behalf of the Thatcher Police Department, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the AZ Department of Homeland Security. They have been a tremendous help to my agency over the last several years.

They have provided funding through Operation Stone Garden which has provided equipment and other resources to my agency. AZDOHS programs have provided us with much needed resources that would not have been possible without them. Additionally, with overtime funding, it has allowed us to put additional officers on the streets to maximize our effectiveness which increases the safety in our communities. We do not currently have a radio that was not purchased by them. We have lap tops, and vehicles that were provided by them. These tools are essential to our law enforcement mission.

With the immigration issues that we are currently facing at our southern border, this department is providing crucial funds to our agency which allow us to work closely with our federal partners to impact this issue. Without Operation Stone Garden funds we would not be able to do much to help impact this problem in AZ.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration and support for the AZ Department of Homeland Security.

Shaffen D. Woods

Chief of Police

Thatcher Police Department



Chief Shaffen D. Woods

3700 W. MAIN STREET, THATCHER, AZ 85552 - (928) 428-2296 - FAX (928) 428-2040

July 20, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: AZDOHS Letter of Support

Dear Representative Payne,

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. On behalf of the Thatcher Police Department, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the AZ Department of Homeland Security. They have been a tremendous help to my agency over the last several years.

They have provided funding through Operation Stone Garden which has provided equipment and other resources to my agency. AZDOHS programs have provided us with much needed resources that would not have been possible without them. Additionally, with overtime funding, it has allowed us to put additional officers on the streets to maximize our effectiveness which increases the safety in our communities. We do not currently have a radio that was not purchased by them. We have lap tops, and vehicles that were provided by them. These tools are essential to our law enforcement mission.

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Once again, thank you for your time and consideration and support for the AZ Department of Homeland Security.

Shaffen D. Woods

Chief of Police

Thatcher Police Department



Tombstone Marshal's Office

Marshal Jim Adams
315 E Fremont St
PO Box 339
Tombstone, AZ 85638

Phone: (520) 457-2244
Fax: (520) 457-3124

21 July 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Gentlemen,

The Tombstone Marshal's Office is a small department with a limited budget and exceptional aspirations. As a point of reference, our annual overtime allotment is \$0 and our entire agency training line item for last year was \$2,000. Having learned about grant opportunities through the AZDOHS, I submitted an impassioned plea for support as we are embroiled in the very heart of the human smuggling trade and sit on a major drug trafficking corridor. As a result of the state's generosity, we were awarded monies permitting the purchase of pursuit rated vehicles, next generation tri-band radios, License Plate Readers and Cellebrite technology, in addition to funds to pay overtime for highly targeted interdiction efforts. We are coupling this with our newly minted K9 unit that will focus on attacking the border related crimes that I have articulated above.

As recent as yesterday, I spoke briefly at a quarterly Chief's luncheon and expressed to all present that our talents, resources and efforts as fully expected to be shared regionally, as our city is strategically located in the geographical center of the county's most populated areas. This is our opportunity to serve the many departments that have helped us when we were struggling in the fight against our common foe.

Absolutely none of this would have been possible without the support of the AZDOHS and I am grateful they exist as an entity in service to Law Enforcement!

Very Respectfully,

Jim Adams
Tombstone Marshal
(520) 457-2244
JAdams@cochise.az.gov



Charles W. Ryan, III
Fire Chief

August 4, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Letter of Support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security To remain a stand-alone agency

This letter is written on behalf of the Tucson Fire Department supporting the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and staff, led by Interim Director Suzan Dzbanko. I have had the pleasure of working with this office and its members over the past ten years, and during this time, this office has been instrumental in helping the Tucson Fire Department and all the Southern Arizona Counties. This partnership started with us in 2007, along with other Southern Arizona Public Safety Agencies, when the City of Tucson became an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) City. The support from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has provided, with funding, has truly made the state of Arizona safer regarding response capabilities, training, and equipment that is vital to the emerging threats our state and country face. Without the Arizona Department of Homeland Security support, our department and most cities and counties in our state would be less equipped and trained to respond to any significant incident.

Tucson Fire Department has a great partnership and rapport with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. With the Arizona Department of Homeland Security being a stand-alone agency, they have been able to help Tucson Fire not only acquire the necessary funding, equipment, and training to ensure a safer Southern Arizona but they have also helped to keep our agency compliant with the federal guidelines. Today, Southern Arizona is much more prepared and trained to respond to an incident because of our true regional capabilities and collaboration with the four counties assigned to the southern region. This is primarily due to the partnership and support that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security provides.



Charles W. Ryan, III
Fire Chief

Tucson Fire Department, along with the numerous other public safety agencies in Pima County, have found that aligning ourselves with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security has created a larger vision of preparedness and safety for the region; this could not have been attained without the services offered by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Respectfully,

Chris A. Anderson, MA, EFO, CFO, EM, CPM
Assistant Chief
Operations Bureau
Tucson Fire Department
Office (520) 837-7399
Cell (520) 406-9614
Chris.Anderson@tucsonaz.gov



Chad Kasmar
Police Chief

July 26, 2023

Senator Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senator
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman:

I am writing in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). The Tucson Police Department has worked closely with AZDOHS since 2006, when we became a recognized member of the Urban Area Securities Initiative. Since that time, we have developed and maintained a healthy working relationship between the Tucson Police Department, and AZDOHS based on a mutual respect and support.

Although the Tucson UASI was defunded in 2010, AZDOHS has maintained the partnership with all agencies represented in the Tucson region by continuing to make scheduled trips to the Tucson metro for State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) grants meetings and training. This continuing interaction has helped the Tucson region strengthen interagency partnership across the state.

Over the past eighteen years, AZDOHS has provided support and guidance for understanding and managing several UASI grants, SHSGP grants and Stone Garden grants. This support has increased the resilience in the Tucson metro area by funding needed equipment and training for our officers. Some of recent SHSGP grants have included funding for the replacing expired explosive and disposal (EOD) suits and antiquated X-ray systems for each member of the EOD unit and acquiring anti-vehicle intrusion barriers for major civic events. The partnership with AZDOHS has provided the ability for members throughout the state to include the Southern Arizona region and Tucson metro to have a greater preparedness and safety for the community we serve.

On behalf of the Tucson Police Department, I offer my support that Arizona Department of Homeland Security continues to fulfill its obligations as a standalone agency to build resiliency to the State of Arizona through building partnerships across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Kasmar".

Chad Kasmar
Chief of Police



Chad Kasmar
Police Chief

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Payne
Arizona House of Representatives
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Representative Payne:

I am writing in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). The Tucson Police Department has worked closely with AZDOHS since 2006, when we became a recognized member of the Urban Area Securities Initiative. Since that time, we have developed and maintained a healthy working relationship between the Tucson Police Department, and AZDOHS based on a mutual respect and support.

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On behalf of the Tucson Police Department, I offer my support that Arizona Department of Homeland Security continues to fulfill its obligations as a standalone agency to build resiliency to the State of Arizona though building partnerships across the state.

Sincerely,


Chad Kasmar
Chief of Police



Valley Academy for
Career and Technology Education

3405 E. Highway 89A – Bldg. B

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10 January 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne

Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I trust this message finds you in good health

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our esteemed state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable.

AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of

our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

Considering the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely



Robert Weir
VACTE Superintendent



Wellton Police Department

28618 Oakland Avenue • P.O. Box 67 • Wellton, Arizona 85356
Emergency: (928) 785-4700 • Administration: (928) 785-4887 • Fax: (928) 785-4065

August 1, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Hoffman & Representative Payne,

It is with great pleasure to write this letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. The Wellton Police Department has had a great working relationship with AZDOHS since the early 2000s. Border Security has been a priority for us since we began our relationship with the AZDOHS. Through these professional contacts, we have been able to increase the number of deployments to assist our local federal partners daily. This not only helps our local community see an increase in uniformed personnel but also increases the amount of manpower on the roadways to help combat border issues.

During this 20+ year relationship, we have been able to partner up with the U.S Border Patrol to help minimize human trafficking and drug flow that comes through our area. We have been able to remove pounds of dangerous drugs from getting into the hands of our local communities across the state.

We are very grateful to have an agency like the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. AZDOHS has provided direct direction and access to numerous grant programs and resources. AZDOHS's direct help has made it possible to further protect and enhance the safety of our citizens within our community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (928) 785-4887 or by email at drodriguez@welltonaz.gov

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rodriguez".

David Rodriguez
Chief of Police

West-MEC

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

I am reaching out to express my robust endorsement for the ongoing support and continuation of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and its pivotal role in upholding the safety and security of our esteemed state. The profound influence of AZDOHS's endeavors, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, cannot be overstated.

Our enduring collaboration with AZDOHS has been crucial in fortifying our state's security. Through close cooperation, we have collectively identified and thwarted numerous cyber threats that posed significant risks to our critical infrastructure and citizen services. The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the AZDOHS team in this realm have been truly commendable.

Leading an IT team of for a K12 school district is met with challenges to provide safe resources to our students while we are faced with budget shortfalls, and the inability to employ professional services within our already thin funding. Often times we lose talent to industry since we are unable to match wages. And, as swiftly as the threat landscape advances we are relying on older technologies to harden our cybersecurity posture.

AZDOHS has excelled, notably in establishing and supporting various cybersecurity platforms for use by organizations like ours. These platforms have equipped us with essential tools and resources, empowering us to proactively address emerging cyber threats. The advancements resulting from these initiatives have substantially enhanced our ability to secure our digital landscape, rendering it increasingly challenging for malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities within our systems and our personnel. Without the resources we have been provided by the AZDOHS we are at a higher risk of being cyber hijacked; in turn, using tax payer dollars to remediate a ransom.

Furthermore, AZDOHS's dedication to fostering statewide communication and information sharing has been transformative. This collaborative approach has seamlessly united government entities of all sizes and resources, bolstering our joint efforts in safeguarding critical infrastructure. By facilitating a robust network of information exchange, AZDOHS has significantly improved our collective ability to respond promptly and effectively to potential threats.

Looking ahead, the continued presence of AZDOHS is paramount. The security threat landscape is ever-evolving, with cyber threats growing in sophistication and prevalence. To ensure the safety of our state and its residents, it is imperative that we persist in investing in the resources and expertise provided by AZDOHS.

In light of the myriad benefits AZDOHS has brought to Arizona, I urge you to strongly consider the indispensable role that this department plays in our security infrastructure. Sustained funding and support for AZDOHS will not only fortify our state's resilience against cybersecurity threats but also enhance our ability to comprehensively address a broad spectrum of security challenges across the whole of the State of Arizona.

West-MEC

I appreciate your unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of our state and its citizens. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of your continued support for AZDOHS.

Sincerely,



George Gerardo
IT Director West-MEC



Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management

July 27, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:


As the sunset of authorization for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) approaches, we want to share Yavapai County's experience and provide insight from the stakeholder perspective. The Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management has worked closely with the AZDOHS for many years. This organization has never failed to provide technical or professional support as needed and has provided superior customer service to ensure mission success. In our experience, this is a relatively unique, if not rare, government perspective attributed to their leadership.

Working with AZDOHS has allowed Yavapai County to remain competitive for federal grant dollars. While other Arizona Departments struggle in the administration of the simplest of grants, AZDOHS provides sound leadership, exceptional management practices, and practical oversight of programs. Participation in these grant programs has allowed for critical training and exercises in our community to close gaps and increase Yavapai County's resiliency. One of the most significant impacts is in the yearly Basin Operations Drill that exercises Operational Communication, Operational Coordination, and Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction via a fire operations exercise that is composed of agencies from throughout the County. It is one of, if not the largest, exercise held in our region.

If the premise of the lean government initiative is to enhance the government's responsiveness, increase efficiency, and consequently reduce cost: then it stands to reason that we want to keep those agencies that demonstrate these qualities and align their mission areas to maximize the effort.

Arizona has an opportunity to align programs and agencies both horizontally and vertically to increase the protection of our communities and infrastructure and enhance Arizona's response capabilities. Organizations across the state have become dependent upon this organization. Therefore, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security is a necessity not only now but in the future and should be reauthorized.

Thank you for your consideration.


Ashley Ahlquist
Emergency Manager
Yavapai County



County Administration
Office of Emergency Management
2200 W. 28th Street,
Yuma AZ 85364

Tony C. Badilla
Emergency Management Director
928-317-4680
tony.badilla@yumacountyaz.gov

August 9, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Letter of Support for Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Dear Senator Hoffman,

On behalf of the Yuma County Office of Emergency Management (YCOEM), I am writing to express our support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to maintain its status as a stand-alone agency as you are reviewing the sunset of authorization of AZDOHS.

I have been the Director of the Yuma County Office of Emergency Management for the past ten years and was formerly a police chief of a small agency. This has allowed me to work closely for the past 15 years with the staff of the AZDOHS. AZDOHS has provided guidance and financial support through their funding sources for equipment and training.

Arizona Department of Homeland Security is well organized and continues to provide excellent customer service in grant management to include guidance of procurement and reimbursement services. I have been involved with the Tribal Homeland Security and the State Homeland Security Grants which requires me to closely work with our area regional representatives and grant coordinators.

AZDOHS continues to build and strengthen relationships between multiple first responder stakeholders and ensures there is a fair and consistent process for funding requested projects. These projects have supported multiple agencies within Yuma County.

Yuma County OEM is a member of the Yuma Regional Communication System (YRCS). AZDOHS funding and guidance has allowed our county to build a robust, state-of-the-art 700 MHz land mobile radio (LMR) system providing critical operable and interoperable two-way communications for public safety and public service agencies within the greater Yuma/La Paz Region. Yuma County participants include Local, Tribal, State, and Federal partners.

The YCOEM supports AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency. I have worked with the former AZDOHS Director Gilbert Orrantia and currently Susan Dzubanko, Interim Director. The leadership and staff provide great resources and stand out as a flagship state agency. AZDOHS

provides guidance for infrastructure protection, interoperability communications, interagency coordination and collaboration, preparedness and grant funding management.

If I can be of service, or provide additional information feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tony C. Badilla

Tony C. Badilla
Director of Emergency Management
Yuma County



**County Administration
Office of Emergency Management**
2200 W. 28th Street,
Yuma AZ 85364

Tony C. Badilla
Emergency Management Director
928-317-4680
tony.badilla@yumacountyaz.gov

August 9, 2023

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Letter of Support for Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Dear Representative Payne,

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provides guidance for infrastructure protection, interoperability communications, interagency coordination and collaboration, preparedness and grant funding management.

If I can be of service, or provide additional information feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tony C. Badilla

Tony C. Badilla
Director of Emergency Management
Yuma County



Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff

Major Eben Bratcher
Operations Chief

Captain Kelly Milner
Commander
Detention Bureau

Captain Jason Amon
Commander
Patrol Bureau

141 S. Third Avenue
Yuma, AZ
85364-2255

Phone: (928) 783-4427
Fax: (928) 539-7837

www.yumacountysheriff.org

Yuma County Sheriff's Office

January 11, 2024

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**RE: Letter of Support for the Arizona Department of
Homeland Security – Cyber Readiness Program**

To whom it may concern:

I am contacting you to communicate how much we value the support we have received from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) with respect to providing the various cyber security products, services and support. Previously, the lack of budgetary funding has hindered our ability to provide these products and services. This program has greatly alleviated many of our issues and previous attempts to secure these tools.

We have successfully on-boarded all of the products that have been offered to us via this program. In doing so we have strengthened our security posture and decreased our vulnerabilities to cyber-attacks. The ability to collaborate with other agencies via the Slack channel has been a great tool as well. We are able to share information in regards to cyber incidents and other security concerns that other agencies throughout the state may be experiencing or dealing with.

Working with the Cyber Readiness team has been a breeze and pleasant. They have provided the necessary support needed throughout product implementation and continued support with ongoing enhancements. The recent Cyber Summit that we attended was extremely beneficial as it allowed us to network with other agencies and vendors. We were able to gain additional knowledge from various vendors and we were able to implement additional security controls.

"Dedicated to Service"

The continual support and funding for the AZDOHS Cyber Readiness Program is imperative. Security threats are constantly evolving and the continuation of having these tools available to us is paramount. Failing to fund this program may leave our organization vulnerable to threats and future attacks.

Sincerely,



Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff

Yuma County Sheriff's Office



August 8, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Letter of Support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)

Dear Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Payne,

As Sheriff of Yuma County, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). The Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) has worked with the AZDOHS since its inception and has received funding through the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

For several years, the YCSO has received funding through the OPSG grant program. The funds allocated to YCSO and other local law enforcement agencies have allowed county, city, and state certified officers to act as a force multiplier. This provides an increased presence along the international border in order to deter cross border criminal activity such as drug and human smuggling while supporting our Customs and Border Protection partners in their mission to protect and secure our borders. YCSO also deploys certified Detention Officers to assist in transporting persons apprehended illegally crossing the US/ Mexico border. When apprehended by Border Patrol, those individuals are transported from the border to the Border Patrol Station for processing thus allowing US Border Patrol Agents to remain in the field.

Additionally, with OPSG funding, YCSO has been able to augment technology deployed to secure the border. By carefully analyzing data obtained through deployment of technology, trends and patterns are identified which are consistent with persons conducting illegal

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff

Major Eben Bratcher
Operations Chief

Captain Kelly Milner
Commander
Detention Bureau

Captain Jason Amon
Commander
Patrol Bureau

141 S. Third Avenue
Yuma, AZ
85364-2255

Phone: (928) 783-4427
Fax: (928) 539-7837

www.yumacountysheriff.org

"Dedicated to Service"

enterprises. This actionable intelligence is shared with law enforcement locally, as well as at the state and national level.

In addition to OPSG funding, YCSO also has been awarded funding through SHSGP to purchase terrorism interdiction and protection equipment. The equipment received has allowed the YCSO Special Response Team (SRT) to purchase equipment ballistic protection, communications equipment. This equipment ensures that SRT members are fully protected and able to operate in rapidly evolving high-risk situations either as single unit or as a force multiplier when operating in collaborative operations with other agencies.

Furthermore, funding received has proven invaluable to the region for the establishment and equipping a regional bomb squad. Due to the location of Yuma County assistance for explosive related devices is hours away. With SHSGP funding, YCSO is able to maintain and equip a regional bomb squad. By having this as a local resource, valuable time is saved which will save lives when encountering explosive related events or interdictions in southwest Arizona.

The grant funding received through the AZDOHS has enhanced our agency's capabilities to prepare, prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other disasters. The YCSO, not unlike other Arizona County Sheriff's Offices, is working with a limited budget. Without the assistance of AZDOHS and their grant programs, our agency's ability to maintain and/or acquire equipment that enables us to protect not only our community but also our officers would be hindered.

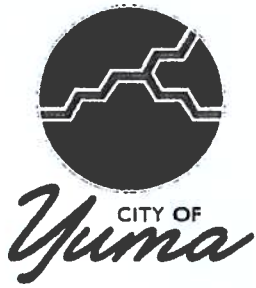
For years, the AZDOHS has been a valuable partner to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office in the administration of the State Homeland Security Grant Programs and so it is my opinion that the AZDOHS should continue as a stand-alone agency.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (928) 539-7830.

Sincerely,



Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff



YUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1500 S. 1st Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 373-4750

Fax (928) 329-7916
www.YumaAZ.gov

August 7th, 2023

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Greetings Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne,

Thank you for reviewing this letter submitted in support of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. We recognize the importance of ensuring the resources of the State of Arizona are properly administered and appreciate the due diligence being given to matters such as the upcoming review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. We desire to assist in this endeavor, as appropriate.

The Yuma Police Department has maintained an active, ongoing, and close partnership with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security since about the time it was established over 15 years ago. This partnership has been focused on preparing for and responding to homeland and border security threats. As a direct result of this partnership, the Yuma Police Department is much better prepared and capable of meaningfully contributing to the protection and security of the State of Arizona and the United States of America as a frontline border community law enforcement agency.

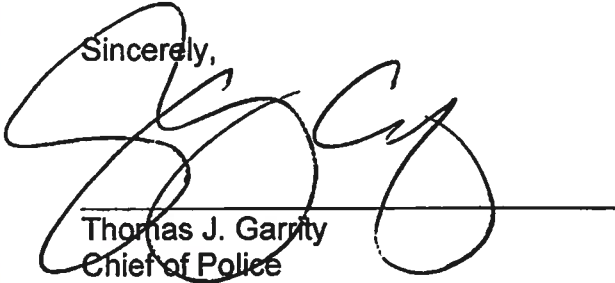
As you know, being a Tier 1 boarder city, the efforts of the Yuma Police Department not only help the community, migrants, Arizona, but also the Country. Through our collaborative efforts with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security in the Operation Stonegarden Program and the State Homeland Security Grant Program the Yuma Police Department has been able to properly equip and deploy officers, in coordination with the United States Border Patrol, to interdict and disrupt illicit border activities, including transnational organized crime enterprises, and in coordination with other local, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, to implement programs and projects designed to prioritize and close gaps in state and national homeland security threats and vulnerabilities. Absent the direct, ongoing, and focused administration, coordination, and collaboration provided by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security the Yuma Police Department would not be nearly as prepared and successful as we have been in these endeavors. Unfortunately, due to circumstances and

situations being what they are today, there is still much work to be done in this area.

Therefore, we firmly believe it is vital to the protection and security of the community, State, and Country that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security continue to operate as a functionally distinct department of the State of Arizona with the specific authorities and abilities to administer and coordinate programs and projects related to homeland and border security threats free from undue influences and political whims

The Yuma Police Department greatly values the partnership we have with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and looks forward to working with the professionals within the Department on future endeavors to keep Arizona safe, secure, and prosperous.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Garrity
Chief of Police

TJG/dw

Arizona State Senator Jake Hoffman
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne
Committee of Reference Co-Chair
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Letter of Support for Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AzDHS)

Committee of Reference,

I have worked with DHS since the creation of the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) in 2002, serving on the Southern RAC since then and reappointed annually by four Governor's. I have been Chairman of the Southern RAC since 2004, elected each year by the Southern RAC members. During these years I have served as Assistant IT Director for the City of Yuma and 10 years as City Manager for Yuma. For the last few years I own company and serve as a volunteer for the Yuma County Sheriff.

Over the years our processes with AzDHS have gotten much better and we have refined how each agency can better be supported through the grant process and interface with AzDHS and all the agencies in Arizona. AzDHS and staff has been instrumental in setting up and maintain these relationship primarily with Law Enforcement and Fire EMS agencies but also with other critical response and support agencies in Arizona.

Maintaining these relationships with AzDHS directly and keeping it as an separate agency has helped Public Safety in Arizona and the efforts of the State of Arizona. Arizona DHS working with the RAC's as an advisory committee has resulted in significantly improved regional collaboration within the state and this collaboration coordinated by AzDHS has resulted in better use of taxpayer and federal funds as agencies are now sharing capabilities versus every agency having to have their own capability. Examples are regional Bomb units, SWAT units, joint agency training and Hazmat teams just to name a few.

AzDHS has also been instrumental in coordinating with ACTIC and ensuring distribution of Intelligence via the Terrorist Liaison Officers (TLO) throughout the state. This collaboration led by AzDHS and their staff has led to heading off numerous threats to the citizens of Arizona.

While there are always new ideas and structures that could be looked at the saying "If it's not broke, don't try to fix it." Applies here. AzDHS working as a separate entity has been working for many years with several different processes and relationship in place, changing that would be a mistake.

Thanks for your consideration
Respectfully
Greg Wilkinson
Southern RAC Chairman
Owner of Archixona, LLC
SDVOSB



Arizona State Legislature

1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

June 22, 2023

Interim Director Susan Dzbanko
Arizona Department of Homeland Security
1700 W. Washington Street, Suite # 210
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Interim Director Susan Dzbanko:

The sunset review process prescribed in Title 41, Chapter 27, Arizona Revised Statutes, provides a system for the Legislature to evaluate the need to continue the existence of state agencies. During the sunset review process, an agency is reviewed by legislative committees of reference (CORs). On completion of the sunset review, the CORs recommend to continue, revise, consolidate or terminate the agency.

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee has assigned the sunset review of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to the CORs comprised of members of the Senate Government Committee and the House of Representatives Military Affairs & Public Safety Committee.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2954, the COR is required to consider certain sunset factors in deciding whether to recommend continuance, modification or termination of an agency. Please provide your agency's response to the factors listed below:

1. The key statutory objectives and purposes in establishing the agency.
2. The agency's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its key statutory objectives and purposes.
3. The extent to which the agency's key statutory objectives and purposes duplicate the objectives and purposes of other governmental agencies or private enterprises.
4. The extent to which rules adopted by the agency are consistent with the legislative mandate.
5. The extent to which the agency has provided appropriate public access to records, meetings and rulemakings, including soliciting public input in making rules and decisions.
6. The extent to which the agency timely investigated and resolved complaints that are within its jurisdiction.
7. The extent to which the level of regulation exercised by the agency is appropriate as compared to other states or best practices, or both.
8. The extent to which the agency has established safeguards against possible conflicts of interest.
9. The extent to which changes are necessary for the agency to more efficiently and effectively fulfill its key statutory objectives and purposes or to eliminate statutory responsibilities that are no longer necessary.
10. The extent to which the termination of the agency would significantly affect the public health, safety or welfare.

Additionally, please provide written responses to the following:

1. The extent to which the agency potentially creates unexpected negative consequences that may require additional review by the COR, including increasing the price of goods, affecting the availability of services, limiting the abilities of individuals and businesses to operate efficiently and increasing the cost of government.
2. The extent to which the agency has addressed deficiencies in its enabling statutes.
3. The extent to which the agency has determined whether the Attorney General or any other agency in Arizona has the authority to prosecute or initiate actions.
4. The consequences of eliminating the agency or consolidating it with another agency.

Additionally, statute requires the COR to consider certain factors for each agency that administers an *occupational regulation*, which is defined as: 1) a statute, rule, practice, policy or other state law that allows an individual to use an occupational title or work in a lawful occupation; and 2) a government registration, government certification and occupational or professional license. An *occupational regulation* does not include a business license, facility license, building permit or zoning and land use regulation, except to the extent those state laws regulate an individual's personal qualification to perform a lawful occupation. If your agency falls under this category, please provide written responses to the following:

1. The extent to which the occupational regulation meets the requirements of A.R.S. § 41-3502.
2. The extent to which the failure to regulate a profession or occupation will result in:
 - a. the loss of insurance.
 - b. an impact to the ability to practice in other states or as required by federal law.
 - c. an impact to the required licensure or registration with the federal government.
 - d. the loss of constitutionally afforded practices.

Your response should be received by September 1, so that we may proceed with the sunset review and schedule the required public hearing. Please submit the requested information to:

Anna Nguyen
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Thank you for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (602) 926-3292 or Anna Nguyen, the Senate Government Research Analyst, at (602) 926-3171.

Sincerely,

Senator Jake Hoffman
Senate Government Committee, Chair

cc: Kevin Payne, House Military Affairs & Public Safety, Chair
Nathan McRae, House Military Affairs & Public Safety, Analyst



Governor Katie Hobbs

State of Arizona

Department of Homeland Security



Interim Director Susan Dzbanko

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Senator Jake Hoffman
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Representative Kevin Payne
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Sunset Review

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Payne:

Thank you for your letter regarding the sunset review process for the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2954, the AZDOHS is providing responses to the sunset factors requested.

1. The key statutory objectives and purposes in establishing the agency.

The Arizona Office of Homeland Security was established in 2003 at the direction of Governor Janet Napolitano as a result of the Homeland Security Act passed on November 25, 2002 after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. In September 2006, the Arizona State Legislature established the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) to further enhance the ability of the State to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and other disasters by developing and implementing effective and efficient management and administration of grants provided to the State through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) and other federal agencies. Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-4254, the Department is responsible for developing and implementing "policies, plans, and programs to enhance the ability of this State to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism, cybersecurity threats, and other critical hazards" and receiving and distributing "all awards granted to this State by the federal government for homeland security purposes."

The AZDOHS serves three principal roles in fulfilling its mission. The first is the role the Department serves as an advisory agency to the Governor and her staff. The second role is that of a grant administrative agency charged with the responsibility of managing and administering the suite of Homeland Security Grant Programs (HSGP), the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP-State and NSGP-Urban Areas) and various other USDHS grant programs. The third role is the Statewide Information Security and Privacy Office which serves as the strategic planning, facilitation and coordination office for information security in Arizona. This includes the appointment of the Statewide Chief Information Security Officer (CISO).

The AZDOHS Director serves as the Homeland Security Advisor (HSA) to the Governor and as a primary liaison to the USDHS. The Director briefs the Governor and her staff regarding homeland security, border security, counterterrorism, public safety and cybersecurity issues. In addition, the Director maintains an exceptional and interactive relationship with local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officials, emergency managers, fire personnel, and other public safety representatives. These professional relationships extend to the county sheriffs, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), FBI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, DHS Intelligence and Analysis, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), USDHS, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The Director and Deputy Director of Grant Administration are also members of the National Governors Association, Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) which is a nationwide body providing a forum that brings together the governors' principal homeland security advisors from each state, commonwealth, territory, and District of Columbia.

In its secondary role, the Department serves as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the HSGP and other federal grants; and, therefore receives, administers and manages the federal HSGP and other related grant programs from the USDHS. To meet the overarching objectives of the AZDOHS is to help ensure Arizona and the nation is prepared and resilient, the AZDOHS provides strategic planning, direction, and funding support to attain capability targets for the 31 core capabilities of the National Preparedness System under the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. A whole community approach is utilized to engage local jurisdictions, first responders, private sector, nongovernmental organizations and community members through developing and maintaining close relationships and collaboration with local, state, tribal and federal partners.

Since the enactment of A.R.S. §41-4251 through 4273, processes and procedures have been developed and implemented to ensure good stewardship as well as efficiency of funding opportunities. Developments include conducting annual Grant Information Seminars, completing the Threat/Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, Stakeholder Preparedness Review, conducting Regional Advisory Councils meetings, attending Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Executive Committee and Working Group meetings, attending and managing the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Integrated Planning Teams as well as day-to-day planning, reimbursement processing, along with project and financial subrecipient monitoring. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) specifically indicates that SAAs are the eligible applicants of grant awards to the states.

In 2022, legislation formalized the transition of the statewide information security and privacy office (SISPO) from ADOA-ASET to AZDOHS elevating the focus of the office while maintaining centralized statewide strategic planning, facilitation, and coordination of cybersecurity in the state. The AZDOHS Director serves as or appoints the State Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to manage the statewide information security and privacy office and act as the principal cybersecurity strategist for the State. In order to accomplish this mission, the SISPO is required by statute to develop, implement, and maintain statewide information security policies and a coordinated statewide plan for information security and privacy. To this end, the office also directs cybersecurity and privacy protection compliance reviews for each budget unit ensuring their compliance with policies set by the Department and evaluates the effectiveness of agency cybersecurity plans, monitoring, and reporting as necessary. The Department also works to identify information security and privacy protection risks in each budget unit and directs those agencies to adopt risk mitigation strategies following established best practices and protection methods. The Department coordinates statewide information security and privacy protection awareness and training programs supporting the goal of training every State employee on the importance of cybersecurity and evaluating the vulnerabilities present in our workforce through simulated phishing attacks.

The Department has also established a state security operations center (SOC) for the central detection, reporting, analysis, and response of cybersecurity incidents and breaches across the state. This supports all agencies in meeting their requirement of identifying and reporting security incidents to the SISPO immediately upon discovery and for both agencies to work together to deploy mitigation strategies, response efforts, or recovery of services as directed. The Department continues to develop other strategies as necessary to protect Arizona's information technology infrastructure and the critical data that is stored on or transmitted by it. This includes consulting with the Department of Administration to review security aspects of all IT projects submitted through the Project Investment Justification (PIJ) process as well as supporting ADOA-ASET in the secure operation of the enterprise-level IT infrastructure managed by the Department of Administration.

2. The agency's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its key statutory objectives and purposes.

The AZDOHS has met its statutory objective, purpose and efficiency by attaining a 99.39% drawdown rate of federal grant funds. Since 2006, the AZDOHS has effectively and efficiently managed and administered over \$546 million in federal homeland security grants awarded to over 6,000 local, state, tribal, and nonprofit projects in accordance with the core mission to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and all other critical hazards. Since the last sunset review, the AZDOHS has added the State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) and the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) to its portfolio. These grants, along with the other suite of grants, comprise over \$30M in federal grant funding each year.

Specifically, the State Homeland Security Grant Program funds are allocated to the five Homeland Security Regions (Central, North, South, East, West) utilizing a risk formula patterned after the USDHS/FEMA risk review process. In order to optimize the entire state's ability to prepare for and protect against acts of terrorism or other critical hazards, the AZDOHS divided the state into five homeland security regions and created Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) for each region to ensure the state strengthens its ability to work together at all levels to address common threat and vulnerability issues and encourage the sharing of resources across town, city, county, state, tribal, and federal lines. Each RAC is comprised of first responders and local elected officials that live or work in the region including: two members from fire service (one rural, one urban); one police chief; one sheriff; one tribal government member; one emergency manager; four at-large members; one member from the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and public health. It is through these RACs that homeland security projects are initially prioritized and recommended for funding. The AZDOHS engages with these cross-jurisdictional and bi-partisan RAC members throughout the year via in-person meetings and conference calls.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) is one of the grant programs in the Homeland Security Grant Program suite. Allocations of grant funds are specifically made to USDHS-designated urban areas that have been defined as high-threat, high density areas. The AZDOHS provides oversight and works with the UASI Working Group (UAWG) to address a wide variety of threats and hazards within the Central Region/UASI footprint. These relationships, in turn, have a far-reaching statewide impact. Similarly, the Operation Stonegarden Integrated Planning Teams (IPT) addresses border security by engaging local, state, tribal, federal, and bi-national partners in collaborative efforts.

The Department also completes an annual assessment of current capabilities and future resource requirements known as the Threat/Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). This important document is required to be submitted by December 31 each year and is a cornerstone to the planning efforts for the Department. The AZDOHS has submitted the assessment on time each year and has received positive feedback from our Federal partners.

The Department continues to meet its grant management/administration statutory objectives and purpose by refining policies, plans and programs where appropriate. As the USDHS grant programs evolve, the AZDOHS will continue to meet the ongoing planning, implementation and reporting requirements to maintain eligibility to receive, manage and administer future grant funding opportunities.

As it pertains to cybersecurity, the AZDOHS maintains an effective use of enterprise-level cybersecurity resources, providing high-value cybersecurity protections and risk mitigation strategies across the state to address the most sophisticated cybersecurity threats. The Department has continued to develop, implement, and maintain statewide cybersecurity policies, and conduct assessments of compliance with those policies resulting in increased effectiveness in several key areas:

Centralized Coordination: The Department's role as a central coordination body allows it to streamline efforts across various budget units evaluating and avoiding duplication of efforts and promoting consistency in information security best practices.

Policy Development and Compliance: Effectively developing, communicating, and enforcing statewide information security policies can lead to greater compliance and a stronger security posture across all state agencies.

Risk Management and Mitigation: The Department's ability to identify and address security risks within budget units helps mitigate potential threats before they escalate and become incidents.

Training and Awareness: By coordinating statewide information security awareness and training programs, the agency can contribute to a more informed workforce reducing the likelihood of security incidents caused by human error.

Incident Response and Detection: Establishing the state security operations center enhances the state's ability to detect, report, and respond to security incidents promptly minimizing their impact and evaluate the true threat to the state through holistic analysis and reporting.

Consultation and Examination: Close collaboration with the Department of Administration and other budget units ensures that security aspects are considered in all IT projects leading to stronger security integration from the outset.

Reporting and Accountability: Regular monitoring and reporting on compliance with information security policies can allow the legislature and executive branch to hold agencies accountable for their security efforts and provide effective assistance for closing security control gaps.

Adaptation to Emerging Threats: The Department's ability to collaborate with the best and brightest from all state agencies to evaluate the true statewide threat perspective allows it to adapt its strategies and procedures to address evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges maintaining effectiveness over time.

3. The extent to which the agency's key statutory objectives and purposes duplicate the objectives and purposes of other governmental agencies or private enterprises.

Per the FEMA NOFO regarding federal homeland security grants, the SAA (AZDOHS) is the only eligible applicant for the Homeland Security suite of grants. As such, private enterprise would not qualify to apply for and administer these grants. The homeland security grant projects must align with the THIRA, SPR, and numerous other federal regulations/requirements that are unique to the homeland security grants program. The homeland security grants place an emphasis on preparedness for terrorist events or other critical hazards. As such, the homeland security grants have a narrow focus on terrorism preparedness/response; and, therefore, other agencies do not have the same/similar objectives.

For information security and privacy protections, other state agencies may have information security and privacy functions, but the central coordination and facilitation role described in the statute cannot be found elsewhere. This provides a central reporting and management of all cyber and privacy risks across all state agencies and allows for efficient implementation of holistic cybersecurity strategies. The Department is the only organization authorized to set statewide cybersecurity and privacy policies to ensure consistent implementation of security controls across all state agencies.

The Department is also the only agency operating a statewide Security Operations Center, which allows for a central analysis and reporting of cybersecurity incidents across all state agencies and local governments and the effective coordination of response efforts to those incidents.

There may be some overlap with the Office of the Auditor General related to the auditing of the implementation and compliance with statewide cybersecurity policies; however, they are legislatively driven and only focus on specific areas/agencies as requested. The AZDOHS is required to evaluate all agencies and provide specific mitigation strategies to address cybersecurity risks identified.

4. The extent to which rules adopted by the agency are consistent with the legislative mandate.

The AZDOHS currently has no rules nor does the enabling statute expressly authorize the Department to promulgate rules and regulations.

5. The extent to which the agency has provided appropriate public access to records, meetings and rulemakings, including soliciting public input in making rules and decisions.

The AZDOHS complies with Arizona Open Meeting Law, Public Record Laws, and Records Retention schedules. Additionally, as a term and condition of accepting, managing and administering the federally funded grant programs the AZDOHS is required to follow 2 CFR 200 which covers records retention policies. The AZDOHS provides access to public records in compliance with Arizona statutes with guidance from the Attorney General's Office.

6. The extent to which the agency timely investigated and resolved complaints that are within its jurisdiction.

This factor does not apply to the AZDOHS because the enabling legislation does not establish any authority to investigate and resolve complaints.

7. The extent to which the level of regulation exercised by the agency is appropriate as compared to other states or best practices, or both.

The AZDOHS is not a regulatory agency and therefore this question does not pertain to us.

8. The extent to which the agency has established safeguards against possible conflicts of interest.

The AZDOHS administers more than \$30M of federal funding each year, and there are numerous safeguards set in place to eliminate conflicts of interest. Accepting federal funds requires following a strict set of guidelines from FEMA as well as the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These documents set forth strict guidelines for states and subrecipients to follow to avoid possible conflicts of interest. Additionally, the AZDOHS monitors our stakeholders for compliance with the grant guidance and the CFR. Our RAC members are subject to background checks and are required to sign notarized Oaths of Office where they attest to upholding the Constitution. During RAC funding meetings, members who have a vested interest in a particular project abstain from voting on/for that particular project. Subject matter working groups are required to sign a Member Disclosure Form which is kept on file. The Governor's Office Human Resources (which supports the AZDOHS) requires disclosure of any outside associations or secondary employment that would be viewed as a conflict of interest. The AZDOHS follows the Governor's Office Ethics Policy.

As a member of the Information Technology Authorization Committee (ITAC), the State CISO is also required to sign the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) Council Member Disclosure Form declaring whether they or a relative may have "substantial interest" in the projects being reviewed and approved. This includes abstaining from votes when projects are submitted by the AZDOHS.

The AZDOHS also utilizes a comprehensive review process for all cybersecurity solution purchases ensuring that the Project Investment Justification and ITAC Authorization processes are followed where appropriate as well as review and approval through either the Enterprise Security Program Advisory Council or the Statewide Cybersecurity Planning Committee. This also includes a close working relationship with the State Procurement Office to verify adherence of all procurement rules.

9. The extent to which changes are necessary for the agency to more efficiently and effectively fulfill its key statutory objectives and purposes or to eliminate statutory responsibilities that are no longer necessary.

The AZDOHS does not propose any changes.

10. The extent to which the termination of the agency would significantly affect the public health, safety or welfare.

Public health, safety and welfare would be significantly impacted by the termination of the AZDOHS. During 2006 - 2022, the AZDOHS managed and administered over \$546M expenditures from the homeland security grant funding and other federal grants relevant to homeland security. The AZDOHS is anticipating receipt of an additional \$38M in FFY 2023 funding to support projects that increase capabilities in planning, prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery from terrorist attacks or critical hazards.

In 2004, Arizona established the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) which houses intelligence analysts that are continuously involved in information sharing with local, state, tribal and federal partners to protect Arizona and the nation. Infrastructure and communication equipment has been acquired to increase operability and interoperability among first responders. Personal protective and detection equipment has been acquired for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents. Emergency operation plans have been developed and/or enhanced statewide. Training and exercises are conducted annually to maintain a state of readiness. All of these and many more examples demonstrate advancements and successful outcomes that impact Arizona's health, safety and security.

The AZDOHS employs a staff of individuals who are dedicated to the mission and success of this Department and the state of Arizona. The detriment of terminating this Department would have cascading effects within the first responder community as well as the relations between the state and federal government agencies. Excellent partnerships and trust have been built and established among the AZDOHS and local, state, tribal, and federal partners over the past 20 years. Furthermore, the AZDOHS is currently managing five federal fiscal years totaling more than \$141 million in funding and close to 700 individual projects. Terminating this Department would have a devastating impact on the ability to effectively manage and administer the grant funds in accordance with state and federal regulations. The homeland security grants are extremely specialized. Terminating this Department would result in unintended consequences to include decrease in draw-down rate due to transition time lapse, reduced project management, increased reimbursement timeframes, loss of best practices and the solid foundation that has been established.

Homeland Security grants are reimbursement grants. If this Department were to be terminated; local, state and tribal partner relationships would need to be rebuilt. Many of our subrecipients are in rural areas that do not have the capital to wait significant amounts of time before they are reimbursed. Inefficient or temporarily absent reimbursement processing could significantly impact local jurisdictions' ability to maintain operations. Additionally, our process for accepting and awarding funds is critical to the ability for local, state and tribal partners to procure and put into place the necessary equipment and training required to maintain a readiness level. The structured processes the AZDOHS has developed and implemented are recognized nationwide as best practices by FEMA Region IX and FEMA headquarters as well as the USDHS. If there is any disruption to these processes, our stakeholders will see a diminished capacity to procure and implement projects which may result in devastating effects to first responders as well as the community as a whole.

Also, the Department currently provides significant resources in the way of direct operational cybersecurity protections and services to both state agencies as well as local government entities. Discontinuation or disruption of these services would be catastrophic for many organizations that rely on these protections to prevent cyber attacks. This would also have additional cascading effects within the community as well as the relations between the state, local, and federal government agencies. The Department's role in coordinating and overseeing information security across various budget units helps protect critical government systems and data from cyber threats. Without the Department's central coordination, there could be a risk of fragmented or inconsistent security practices across different entities potentially leading to increased vulnerabilities and breaches. The Department's Security

Operations Center (SOC) plays a key role in detecting, reporting, and responding to security incidents and breaches. If this function were terminated, the state's ability to promptly identify and mitigate security breaches could be compromised potentially leading to longer response times and increased impact from incidents.

The Department's role in developing and enforcing statewide information security policies ensures a consistent level of security across all state agencies. Without this oversight, budget units might develop their own disparate policies leading to potential gaps or inadequacies in information security measures. The Department's ability to identify and mitigate information security risks helps prevent potential threats before they escalate. Termination could lead to a lack of coordinated efforts to assess and manage risks across the state's IT infrastructure. The Department's focus on privacy protection is crucial for safeguarding sensitive information. Termination might result in reduced emphasis on privacy concerns potentially leading to breaches of personally identifiable information and public trust or for fragmented implementation of privacy protections across each individual state agency. The Department's coordination of training programs ensures that government employees are informed about information security best practices. Termination could lead to a lack of consistent training and awareness efforts potentially increasing the likelihood of security incidents caused by human error.

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, and the Department's role includes adapting strategies to address emerging threats. Termination could hinder the state's ability to stay ahead of new threats and implement holistic effective cybersecurity measures across the state. As government operations increasingly rely on digital systems and data, disruptions caused by security incidents could impact the efficiency and effectiveness of essential citizen services affecting the public's well-being.

In summary, the termination of the Department could have significant implications for the public safety, and welfare of the state due to potential vulnerabilities, reduced incident response capabilities, inconsistent security practices, and the broader impact on government operations.

11. The extent to which the agency potentially creates unexpected negative consequences that may require additional review by the COR, including increasing the price of goods, affecting the availability of services, limiting the abilities of individuals and businesses to operate efficiently and increasing the cost of government.

Part of the mission of the Department is to provide services and access to resources that will enable stakeholders to achieve our collective goals of preventing terrorist attacks, reducing vulnerability to all critical hazards, enhancing the capacity and expertise to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from all terrorist attacks and critical hazards that affect the safety, well-being and economic security of Arizona and building resiliency. By providing the economic and operational resources to other state agencies, local units of government and non-profit organizations, the Department is helping to increase the availability of services and the abilities of individuals and businesses to operate efficiently.

The work of the Department and its stakeholders has increased safety, capabilities of first responders, and has made Arizona less vulnerable to all critical hazards. No unexpected negative consequences are created by the work conducted by the Department.

12. The extent to which the agency has addressed deficiencies in its enabling statutes.

This question is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

13. The extent to which the agency has determined whether the Attorney General or any other agency in Arizona has the authority to prosecute or initiate actions.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

14. The consequences of eliminating the agency or consolidating it with another agency.

Although it has been 22 years since the tragedy of 9/11, there continues to be a persistent, evolving threat to our nation. Whether it is a homegrown, lone wolf terrorist or an attack from radical extremists or a nation-state cyber attack, Arizona must be prepared to respond to all events.

Terminating the AZDOHS is not a sensible option given the incoming federal grants, success of the Department, and the current volatility of the national security spectrum. Consolidating the AZDOHS with another agency would add unnecessary bureaucracy to an already proficient state agency while incurring unintended consequences detrimental to its stakeholders and the health and welfare of the public safety community.

To acquire the knowledge to achieve the standard of excellence this Department has attained would take years to rebuild. The field of homeland security is vast and ever changing. Although not insurmountable, it does take a considerable amount of time to become familiar with all of the components involved in the planning, project implementation, reimbursement, monitoring, close-out, assessments and other mechanisms that embody the arena of homeland security and the associated grants and cybersecurity operations. Consolidating the Department with another agency would only impede the progress of the mission of the AZDOHS causing disruption/delay of services as well as imposing potential additional burden to educate and train new/different staff and leadership and develop/modify processes that align with another agency's organization.

The relationships that have been built and maintained by the AZDOHS staff in their roles as advisors on various homeland security related committees, both internal to the state and on a nationwide basis, would be negatively impacted by terminating or consolidating the AZDOHS. Although feasible, it would be difficult and take a substantial amount of time and energy to rebuild and maintain the excellent working relationships the AZDOHS staff have cultivated over the past 20 years with our state, local, tribal, and federal partners.

We strongly believe that retaining the AZDOHS as a stand-alone agency is in the best interest of the State of Arizona and the communities it serves.

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Additionally, statute requires the COR to consider certain factors for each agency that administers an occupational regulation, which is defined as: 1) a statute, rule, practice, policy or other state law that allows an individual to use an occupational title or work in a lawful occupation; and 2) a government registration, government certification and occupational or professional license. An occupational regulation does not include a business license, facility license, building permit or zoning and land use regulation, except to the extent those state laws regulate an individual's personal qualification to perform a lawful occupation. If your agency falls under this category, please provide written responses to the following:

15. The extent to which the occupational regulation meets the requirements of A.R.S. § 41-3502.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

16. The extent to which the failure to regulate a profession or occupation will result in:

- a. the loss of insurance.
- b. an impact to the ability to practice in other states or as required by federal law.
- c. an impact to the required licensure or registration with the federal government.
- d. the loss of constitutionally afforded practices.

This is not applicable to the AZDOHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and for your time as you review and consider the continuance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,



Susan Dzubanko
Interim Director

cc: Representative Kevin Payne, COR Co-Chair
Nathan McRae, House Analyst