



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Marshall (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Monday, December 4, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona House Republicans Urge Phoenix Mayor to Reject Federal Control of Police Department

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative David Marshall and other House Republican members today sent a letter urging Democratic Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego to swiftly reject any consent decree proposed by President Biden’s Department of Justice (DOJ) to turn control of the Phoenix Police Department over to the federal government.

“As you know, the DOJ has used consent decrees to remove local control from police departments in metropolitan cities across the United States. Relinquishing local control of these critical agencies to the federal government has been disastrous for both the public safety of the residents in those cities and for taxpayers. Arizonans have already suffered the drastic consequences of the DOJ consent decree over the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department for the past decade, as Maricopa County Sheriff Penzone and Maricopa County Attorney Mitchell have warned. Giving any consideration to a DOJ consent decree could very well lead to a massive exodus of police officers— at a time when the police force in Phoenix is already severely understaffed (approximately 500 officers short, according to recent reports).”

The full letter is attached below.

David Marshall is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative LD 7, which includes Pinal, Gila, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. Follow him on X/Twitter at @DaveMarshallAZ.

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Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

December 4, 2023

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Mayor Gallego
Phoenix City Councilmembers
200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: *Department of Justice (DOJ) Consent Decree*

Dear Mayor Gallego and Councilmembers:

My colleagues and I write to you in our official capacities to express concerns that we share with our constituents and many other organizations about the possibility of the DOJ taking control of the Phoenix Police Department. We are optimistic that you will swiftly reject any consent decree proposed by the DOJ and challenge the findings in the forthcoming DOJ report.

As you know, the DOJ has used consent decrees to remove local control from police departments in metropolitan cities across the United States. Relinquishing local control of these critical agencies to the federal government has been disastrous for both the public safety of the residents in those cities and for taxpayers. Arizonans have already suffered the drastic consequences of the DOJ consent decree over the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department for the past decade, as Maricopa County Sheriff Penzone and Maricopa County Attorney Mitchell have warned. Giving any consideration to a DOJ consent decree could very well lead to a massive exodus of police officers—at a time when the police force in Phoenix is already severely understaffed (approximately 500 officers short, according to recent reports).

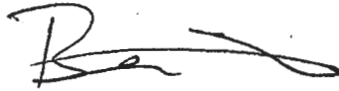
The DOJ consent decree also implicates constitutional considerations. The Arizona Constitution prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from “using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate” with any federal action or program that does not protect the checks and balances of the United States Constitution. Ariz. Const. art. 2, § 3; *see also* U.S. Const. amend. X. To preserve Arizona’s sovereignty consistent with our state constitution, you must reject the DOJ’s coercive consent decree.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Marshall".

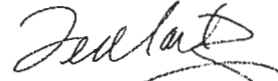
David Marshall
Representative, LD7



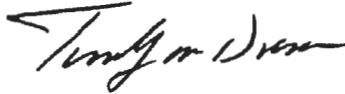
Ben Toma
Representative, LD27
Speaker



Leo Biasiucci
Representative, LD30
Majority Leader



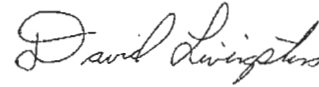
Teresa Martinez
Representative, LD16
Majority Whip



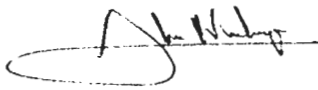
Tim Dunn
Representative, LD25



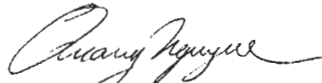
Laurin Hendrix
Representative, LD14



David Livingston
Representative, LD28



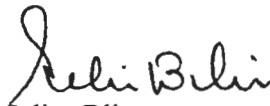
Steve Montenegro
Representative, LD29



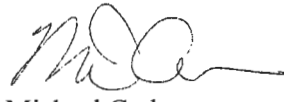
Quang Nguyen
Representative, LD1



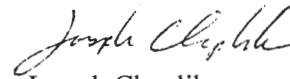
Jacqueline Parker
Representative, LD15



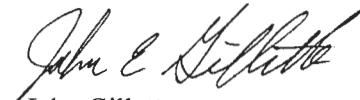
Selina Bliss
Representative LD1



Michael Carbone
Representative, LD25



Joseph Chaplik
Representative, LD3



John Gillette
Representative, LD30



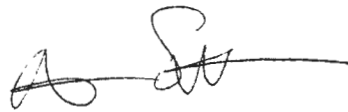
Matt Gress
Representative, LD4



Alexander Kolodin
Representative, LD3



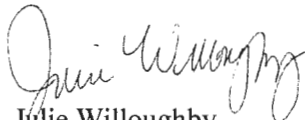
Barbara Parker
Representative, LD10




Austin Smith
Representative, LD29



Kevin Payne
Representative, LD27



Julie Willoughby
Representative, LD13



Rachel Jones
Representative, LD17