

**GREG STANTON**  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

September 26, 2024

The Honorable Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Ms. Clarke:

I write regarding the Department of Justice's (DOJ) investigation into the Phoenix Police Department. When the DOJ's report was released in June, the City of Phoenix conducted a thorough review and analysis of the recommended remedial measures in the report. It is my belief that the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department have acted in good faith to adopt substantial reforms and demonstrated a strong commitment to improving safety and trust in the communities they serve.

On September 19,<sup>1</sup> Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Councilmembers Kevin Robinson and Kesha Hodge Washington proposed substantial public safety reforms. These reforms were unanimously adopted by the City Council on September 24. I believe these reforms will make important improvements to the Phoenix Police Department, including: better documentation of police activity; improvements to the department's investigative and evaluative process; expansion of the use of body worn cameras; and updating policies for interaction with young and vulnerable populations.

The DOJ's own report noted that, under Interim Police Chief Michael Sullivan's leadership, the Department had already begun to implement reforms.<sup>2</sup> As the DOJ considers its next steps, I urge you to consider the proactive changes the City of Phoenix has already initiated, including:

- An overhaul of the Department's use-of-force policy;
- Implementation of new de-escalation training for all officers;
- Sharing relevant internal information publicly regarding incidents in the DOJ report.<sup>3</sup>

Any great organization strives for continuous improvement to best meet the needs of those it serves—and the Phoenix Police Department continues to bravely serve Phoenicians day in and day out. For decades, the overwhelming majority of Phoenix Police officers have worked with honor and integrity to protect and serve our families. As the DOJ continues to evaluate the Phoenix Police Department, I urge you to give full and fair consideration—consistent with applicable agency guidelines—of the implemented reforms, the newly adopted reforms, the city's commitment to improvements, and the implications of a costly and consuming consent decree on the City of Phoenix.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <https://phoenix.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13319984&GUID=847079E3-17BF-4679-8A3C-FD85EA9D9A66>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1355866/dl?inline>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dojrecords.phoenix.gov/>