



MEMO

POLICE DEPARTMENT

To: Rick Horst, City Manager
From: Steve Stahl, Chief of Police
Date: 09-16-2019
Re: Overhire request/DPS Taskforce

The Maricopa Police Department has recognized an increase in gang member related activity within our City and surrounding area. One recognized Organized Criminal Motorcycle Club has opened another of their “clubhouses”, now located at the Ak-Chin Regional Airport. Membership is frequently seen in town wearing their gang indicia and has sponsored a “membership party”, inviting other Organized Criminal Motorcycle Club members from other jurisdictions into our community.

Due to the increase in criminal gang member activity, the Maricopa Police Department has been asked by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to join the Gang Immigration & Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) Task Force. Membership into this task force allows the department to immediate intelligence information and expanded manpower resources in deterrence of organized criminal activity or enforcement of this activity when it occurs. Membership also requires the department to contribute one full-time sworn member to the Task Force. The Arizona GIITEM Task Force has been in existence for more than 3 decades. Their mission has remained consistent and funding to DPS has also remained consistent during this time.

MPD is currently a member of the Arizona Auto Theft Task Force under the direction of DPS and contributes one full-time sworn member to the cause. Even though population has increased by approximately ten thousand residents since joining the Task Force, the Part 1 Crime of Auto Theft has remained at low levels and criminal convictions have risen. The IGA signed between the City of Maricopa and DPS authorizes DPS to pay 75% of the payroll expense of our member. This includes salary, shift pay, benefits and others (please refer to attached IGA). DPS also pays for all overtime expenses related to task-force activity. The IGA indicates DPS provides our member with a vehicle and the maintenance of that vehicle for the task force purposes. The IGA for GIITEM is worded and funded the same as the Auto Theft Task Force.

Current calls for service and staffing challenges prohibit MPD from joining this important crime fighting task force. However, these challenges can be addressed without adversely affecting the police department budget. I recommend utilizing the cost savings from DPS reimbursements (75% Auto Theft Task Force personnel and 75% GIITEM Task Force personnel) to increase our sworn full-time Officer funding by one FTE. These additions will not only be cost beneficial to



the City of Maricopa and police department, they will add vital resources and expertise from within and outside the organization. The current social and criminal conditions involving these identified and unidentified criminal organizations in the City of Maricopa and surrounding jurisdictions can be addressed successfully with this partnership.

I respectfully request permission to over-hire by one Sworn FTE Police Officer and the Maricopa Police Department become a member of the Arizona GIITEM Task Force.