

Indian School Corridor - Citywide Association
REQUIRE THE PRIOR.ORG

March 27, 2009

Dear Mayor Gordon,

I am writing to thank you for your testimony at the Capitol regarding border violence and its impact on the city of Phoenix. It is a sad day for all of us when the Mexican drug cartels feel free to threaten American citizens on our own soil and are more heavily armed than our own officers.

As you expressed so accurately in your recent testimony in Washington, creative partnerships are absolutely necessary in the current economic crisis, especially regarding our border problems and how they spill over into our cities. My organization is built upon the concept of partnership and one of our strongest partners in the community is the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association (PLEA). You and the City Council acted correctly in authorizing the purchase of additional rifles for our frontline officers. However, no one could have predicted the protracted time it would take for them to be delivered.

I want to commend you for requesting information from PLEA on what other major metropolitan cities are doing relative to the private purchase of rifles by law enforcement. We ask that you endorse PLEA's two pronged approach to solving our rifle problem based upon this information and our need to get these rifles on the street sooner rather than later. We too request that you instruct the Phoenix PD to continue their pursuit of procuring additional rifles, while simultaneously allowing officers the option of being able to use personally owned and privately purchased rifles that many officers already have in their possession.

This approach will get rifles as quickly as possible onto the street and into the qualified hands of the officers who are sworn to protect the community. It is creative thinking and partnership at its best and provides an immediate solution that keeps the safety of the community and her officers as the number one priority. We need you to make it happen.

Sincerely,



Ann Malone
President

Cc: Council members: Williams, Neely, Baier, Simplot, Mattox, DiCiccio, Nowakowski, Johnson; Assistant City Manager Alton Washington; Mark Spencer