

Indian School Corridor - Citywide Coalition  
**REQUIRE THE PRIOR.ORG**

April 30, 2009

City of Phoenix Municipal Court  
Courtroom #707  
Judge J. Wiehn, Presiding

Re: President and Founder's statement on Behalf of the Indian School Corridor Citywide Coalition regarding the sentencing of [REDACTED]: DR #2009 [REDACTED].

Your Honor,

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Indian School Corridor Citywide Coalition, an organization which was formed in July of 2007 in response to the crimes that were being committed by career street criminals in the area of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Indian School Road. This organization has grown citywide to over 325 businesses, 16 neighborhood associations representing 8,000 households, and N.A.I.L.E.M. an anti-crime lobbying group with 45,000 members statewide. We continue to grow each month because law abiding citizens are fed up with the anti-social choices made by career street criminals and the impact of the resulting consequences these choices have on the rest of us.

We define career street criminals as individuals who *choose* to sustain themselves by committing crime. These crimes can be felony in nature such as burglary, robbery, and shoplifting. Or they can be misdemeanor in nature such as trespassing, aggressive panhandling, urinating or defecating in public, drinking in public, and so on. And while at first glance these individuals may appear to be homeless, they are most definitely people who *choose* to sustain themselves with this lifestyle at the expense of the quality of life of those of us who are their victims. This description certainly fits the lifestyle choice of this defendant.

Your honor, trespassing is such a benign word. Yet the consequences to those of us who have been repeatedly trespassed are anything but benign.

Phoenix homeowners don't feel as safe as we once did. We know there are career street criminals such as the defendant living in our alleys and wandering around the parking lots of our neighborhood strip malls because we see them, we are aggressively pan-handled and harassed by them. Career street criminals such as the defendant act as if they have a right to our property, and to all public space for that matter, no matter how they behave. This continuous anti-social, intimidating behavior causes us to think that we made a mistake staying in the city to earn our living and raise our children.

Phoenix business owners and their customers no longer feel safe either. The owners are losing both physical and economic security. As our customers migrate to locations they perceive are

safer to spend their money, we lose business income which affects not just the business owner's family, but numerous other families in the city since the subsequent drop in sales tax revenue affects us all. My members, especially those in the area of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Indian School Road have suffered repeatedly by the anti-social criminal choices made by the defendant and I have this letter signed by several of them on the SW corner the defendant favors which I will submit to you now.

We in the community feel even less safe when the police arrest these career street criminals living behind our homes and harassing our customers just to find them back on our doorsteps within a few days at most. It makes our police appear to be impotent, our prosecutors ineffective, and our judges indifferent. We have no choice but to conclude that our hard earned quality of life is under attack and it doesn't seem that anyone in the criminal justice system cares – after all, it's *just* a misdemeanor, it's *just* trespassing.

Such a benign word trespassing. Yet it strikes at the heart of the quality of life of an entire community. It robs homeowners of their peace of mind, it takes away income from the families in the community who are trying to make a living, robs the city of desperately needed tax revenue and impacts the confidence the community places in those sworn to protect and serve us from the street all the way to the courtroom.

We need you to care about our rights, your Honor. We need you to take this opportunity to do what is right for the community. Knowing this defendant's history, and that he clearly chooses to live this way because he realizes that the odds are in his favor that nothing of consequence will happen, after all, he's *just* trespassing, we ask you to give a sentence that will break his cycle of abuse against the community. Please send a message to the defendant that our community is no longer fair game for his anti-social behavior and like all crimes, trespassing is a crime that this court takes very seriously.

Thank you, you Honor, for your kind consideration of my request on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Ann Malone