



Pima County Sheriff's Department

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Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff

Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865

February 19, 2010

Honorable Congresswoman Gabriel Giffords
Arizona Eighth Congressional District
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2011 Appropriations Request, Letter of Support

Dear Congresswoman Gabriel Giffords,

As you know, the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) continues to be a top priority for interoperable communications among Pima County public safety first responders. Part of the PCWIN project includes moving some of our key public safety personnel into a larger, shared facility. A newly formed coalition of Fire Districts throughout Pima County, along with the Pima County Sheriff's Department will operate their 911 call taking and dispatch functions within this Emergency Communications Center. Those two entities will be joined by the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in the same facility (Pima Emergency Communications and Operations Center or PECOC) in an effort to maximize building efficiencies and create effective working space for all three entities.

I am writing this letter in support of an appropriations request to fund the purchase of 911 answering equipment for PECOC. The appropriations request is being made by the Pima County Sheriff's Department on behalf of PCWIN. This very important request is designed to provide the necessary equipment to allow 911 operators to answer emergency calls received from the public. Our response to natural or manmade disasters, as well as to contemporary calls for emergency services, depends largely with our ability to receive emergency 911 calls from our citizenry.

The 911 answering equipment will be used by Pima County Fire Dispatch Consortium, the Pima County Sheriff's Department, the Tucson Fire Department and the immediate back-up positions for those agencies plus the Tucson Police Department. As are you, I am fully cognizant of the need to stretch available funding as efficiently as possible and that is the primary reason the back-up 911 positions will also serve as training positions for new and tenured employees. Although the 911 equipment is clearly necessary, sufficient funding is lacking to actually acquire it.

My constituents, your constituents, the community we serve, are dependent upon our ability to effectively answer their call for help in a timely manner. Having this critical 911 answering equipment is crucial for the delivery of emergency services to the public we serve and will be a substantial benefit for everyone. Naturally, I support this request and seek your continued support to Pima County public safety through this appropriations request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence W. Dupnik".

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County