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MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF’S POSSES ANALYZED BY SPEAR BOARD EXAMINING POSSE PRACTICES, STRUCTURE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sheriff Paul Penzone has instructed his Executive Advisory Review (SPEAR) committee to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Posses associated with MCSO. SPEAR began its review on August 29, 2017, and has not set a date for completion.

“We could not deliver top notch service without the commitment of our hundreds of volunteer Posse members and their leaders,” said Sheriff Penzone. “They provide expertise, services, and assistance to MCSO every day. Our commitment is to provide heightened support, coordination, and oversight, to ensure the highest quality of service to our community.”

SPEAR will conduct an in-depth analysis of Posse responsibilities, operations, fundraising, support services, deployment, training, and accountability. The group, made up of 11 members from diverse backgrounds in business, education, and public service, was formed in January. Its first assignment was a review of Tent City that was completed in March of 2017.

“The Posse has a history of service to the people of Maricopa County that we value greatly,” said SPEAR Chairman and former Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods. “They’ve been extremely successful and expanded significantly over the years. We need to get a better understanding of how the Posse can thrive in the mission and fit into a sophisticated Sheriff’s office.”

The Arizona Constitution authorizes a county Sheriff to form a posse to assist in law enforcement. There are 36 Posses acting on behalf of the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office that conduct a wide range of duties and services. Working at the direction of MCSO, their functions include search and rescue, traffic control, residential and business welfare checks, and educating the public to prevent fraud and abuse. Posses are volunteer organizations, privately funded to support their work at no burden to taxpayers. For example, the Executive Posse manages the Memorial Fund that provides financial assistance through private donations to fallen or injured law enforcement officers all over Arizona.
“The Posse truly embodies the selfless commitment of service to community,” said Sheriff Penzone. “As law enforcement functions in the 21st century we must make sure that the Posse has the tools, guidance, and oversight to maximize their contributions and impact.”

Sheriff Penzone’s Executive Advisory Review (SPEAR)

1. Chairman Grant Woods – SPEAR Chairperson and former Arizona Attorney General
2. Linda Elliott – Executive Director, One n Ten
3. Dr. Ann Hart – President, NAACP
4. Will Humble – Division Director for Health Policy and Evaluation, Arizona Health Science Center, University of Arizona
5. Jonathan Koppell – Dean and Professor, ASU, College of Public Service & Community Solutions
6. Pat McGroder – Attorney, Gallagher and Kennedy
7. Mary Kim Titla – Executive Director, UNITY
8. David K. Udall – Attorney and Founder, Udall Shumway
9. Lisa Urias – President and CEO, Urias Communications
10. Mike Watts – Founder and Executive Chairman, Sunstate Equipment
11. Jason Wong – Financial Consultant

For More Information, including interviews, contact SPEAR Chairperson Grant Woods through his office at 602-258-2599