



The Mesa Police Association

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As you are well aware of Mesa's financial situation is precarious. To assist, I am submitting a proposal that has the potential of raising 5-7 million dollars of **new** additional revenue. This should help alleviate the police department's budget immensely. This also would leave SWAT and Traffic to continue to provide the level of protection Mesa citizens and Officers deserve. It is attached for your review.

The City Manager's plan calls for the elimination of 54 sworn police positions through attrition. The citizens of Mesa voted to tax themselves (1998 Quality of Life Sales Tax) to provide 72 sworn police officer positions over several years to bring us to our current authorized strength. The City Manager then consolidated the tax into the operational budget, but said the items obtained via this tax would be tracked separately.

I would suggest to you the City Manager lacks the authority to override a vote by the citizens. Based on feedback I have received from the public, any fudging, misdirection or cooking up of these base numbers will be seen as deceptive, misleading and very negatively by citizens. We ask that you abide by the wishes of the voters and disapprove that portion of his proposal that eliminates Police Officer positions.

In the most recent bond election, it was more than evident Mesa voting citizens overwhelming support public safety, to the point of taxing themselves again. They have yet to be given the opportunity to support a primary property tax dedicated to public safety.

Lastly, to be clear, the first time I heard the City Manager's financial plan, was at the recent study session. He did not include the Mesa Police Association in his decisions, which I characterize as being decided in a vacuum. This illustrates one of the reasons why I have been so steadfast in support of a meet and confer ordinance that ensures management is communicating with affected employees. Had the City Manager taken a collaborative approach with front line Officers, I am positive the solutions he proposed would have been much more feasible and better thought out. After all, this is the biggest challenge our front-line officers have faced with the city.

The MPA continues to be ready to assist you and the city to conquer the many challenges we face together in the future. We will continue to meet with you as we have more proposals on these issues. Please, feel free to continue to use us as a resource on law enforcement issues.

Respectfully,

Fabian Cota, President
Mesa Police Association