



City of Phoenix

OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN ANN O'BRIEN

February 14, 2022

Jeff Barton
City Manager
City of Phoenix
200 W. Washington Street, 12th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: February 16 Formal Council Add-On Item –Purchase of Drones for the Phoenix Police Department

City Manager Barton,

In the early morning hours of February 11, our officers were ambushed when responding to a call for service at a two-story home in Southwest Phoenix near 54th Avenue and Broadway. Nine of our police officers were injured but thankfully all of them are recovering.

During this incident, it was determined for the safety of our officers a drone would need to be utilized to neutralize the situation. Currently, Phoenix does not own any drones for use by our Police Department, therefore we had to rely on the grace of our neighbor, the City of Glendale, to provide our department with a drone.

Just last month, the City of Phoenix Public Safety Subcommittee approved the first phase of our drone program, which includes the Fire Department. The Police Department is currently in the third phase of this program and wouldn't be slated to receive drones for another twelve months.

We believe the use of drones for the Police Department needs to be escalated – as the fifth largest city in the country, we need to provide our department with the most up to date technology.

We are requesting the Police Department be approved to purchase drones as soon as possible. We request this item be added to the Wednesday, February 16, 2022 Formal Council Agenda for discussion and vote.

Councilwoman Ann O'Brien
Councilwoman, District 1

Mayor Kate Gallego
Mayor, City of Phoenix

Councilwoman Deb Stark
Councilwoman, District 3

Councilman Jim Waring
Councilman, District 2