



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDIDATE VIC WILLIAMS REFERRED FOR INVESTIGATION

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez has referred a matter involving a candidate for the Pima County Board of Supervisors to the Pima County Attorney's Office for investigation and possible prosecution for violations of state law. It is a class 2 misdemeanor offense to take a photograph inside or within 75 feet of a polling place or walk-in early voting site.

On July 30, 2020, Board of Supervisors candidate Vic Williams entered the Pima County walk-in early voting site located at the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Administrative offices on River Road, accompanying two individuals who cast early ballots. Mr. Williams asked staff if he could take pictures at the site. State law prohibits taking photos inside an early voting or Election Day polling site and within 75 feet of the door of any polling place or early voting site. Mr. Williams was correctly informed that the photos are prohibited. Signs are posted at the site clearly indicating that photos are prohibited.

Mr. Williams did not cast a ballot in the site. He had already voted his early ballot and returned it to the Recorder's Office by mail. That ballot was received and accepted on July 15, 2020.

Shortly after leaving the site, Mr. Williams posted two photos on his Facebook account that he took at the early voting site. Both are clearly within the 75-foot limit area where photographs are prohibited. One photo shows Mr. Williams still inside the lobby of the facility in an area less than 15 to 20 feet from the voting room door. The open door and a voting booth are clearly visible in the background of the photo. That photo also shows that Mr. Williams removed his mask in violation of the Pima County

Board of Supervisors policy that mandates every person in common areas of any County facility to wear a mask. The lobby of a County building is clearly a common area.

The second photo shows Mr. Williams and the two others just outside the facility door. While that area is outside the area where masks are required, it is still well within the 75-foot limit area where photos are prohibited.

Rodriguez stated, “I am shocked that a former member of the Legislature would violate state statutes, particularly after he was specifically told that photos were prohibited. It is also very concerning that he would also recklessly endanger my staff and the staff of the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department by removing his mask solely to take a publicity photo. Mr. Williams did not cast a ballot at the site. His entire purpose of being there was apparently to take these illegal photos.”

The Recorder’s Office reminds everyone that pictures of any kind are prohibited in any early voting or polling site. Violators will be referred to the County Attorney’s Office for criminal investigation and prosecution.

