



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

Pima County Recorder
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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: October 23, 2020
CONTACT: Kim Challender
Media Inquiries to (520) 724-4357
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez Early Voting Security by Police Officers

In order to make it as easy as possible for Pima County registered voters to vote safely and securely in all elections, the Pima County Recorder hosts early voting sites throughout the County. This year, in order to help protect the public Recorder's Office staff and county employees working at early voting locations from the exposure to COVID-19, the Recorder is currently staffing six early voting sites, and will be staffing eight more starting Monday, October 26th. It is imperative the safety and security of these sites, and the ballots cast or dropped off there, are preserved.

To assist in that, the Recorder has hired off-duty Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana, Sahuarita Police Officers and Pima County Sheriff Deputies. That security has been in place since October 7th when early voting began. The main recorder's Office in downtown Tucson always has security that is provided by the Justice Court.

Now that Tucson Police Officers are no longer allowed to provide security at early voting sites within the City of Tucson, County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez would like to express her gratitude to Pima County Sheriff Mark Napier for immediately stepping up and providing Sheriff's deputies to provide security at all County early voting sites within the City of Tucson boundaries through the end of early and emergency voting period on Nov. 2nd. Ms. Rodriguez is also appreciative of PCSD staff who quickly facilitated tasking deputies for these sites, including Chief Deputy Byron Gwaltney, Sgt. John Westmoreland and Administrative Support Specialist Marisa Samaniego.

Due to Sheriff Napier's quick action, and that of his staff, all Pima County voters who wish to vote early or drop off their early ballot at early voting sites can rest assured they will be able to do so without incident and that their ballots will remain secure and safe until taken to the County Elections Center for validation and tabulation.

I would like to make it perfectly clear that Tucson Police staff were directed by Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, through the City Manager and the Police Chief, to stop providing these officers to the Recorder's Office. (See Attachment) We were given next to no notice. We were sent an email at 7:30 p.m. on October 21st which was not read until 7:30 a.m. the next day when the early voting sites opened and there were no off duty officers at the Tucson locations. This is after TPD officers had provided security without incident or complaint to my office.

Ms. Rodriguez realizes that people are extremely passionate about this election and have varying opinions on candidates and issues. It is unfortunate that political tension is so high and that relationships with family and friends has been impacted due to the varying political viewpoints. We presently have observers or people holding signs at our early voting locations standing outside the 75 foot limit, which is allowed by law. Some view this as intimidation. Police are there to make sure that matters do not get out of control because of differing viewpoints. Things can quickly escalate as they stand in line. All County Recorder staff are there to serve the public as they cast their ballots or drop them off.

Ms. F. Ann Rodriguez wishes to express her appreciation to all the Tucson Police Officers who had assisted her prior to this recent decision and those of the all the other jurisdictions who will continue to assist us through the 2020 General Election.

Our goal is to maintain election integrity, keep voters and staff safe, especially the temporary employees who have so graciously stepped up to help Pima County have a successful election during these very difficult times. Remember. JUST VOTE!



F. Ann Rodriguez

From: Kimberly Challender
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 7:39 AM
To: Recorder-admin
Subject: FW: Schedule Changes for next week

Importance: High

From: admin account [mailto:admin@offdutymanagement.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Kimberly Challender <Kimberly.Challender@recorder.pima.gov>
Subject: RE: Schedule Changes for next week
Importance: High

Kimberly,

We were just notified that Per the Mayor, we are to cancel all of duty shifts for this coverage. I apologize for any inconvenience. I am working on cancelling all officers for all shifts effective immediately.

Thank you,

Want to know if your requested shifts were filled? You can log into OfficerTRAK® 24/7 to confirm.

Kendra McCoy

Operations Supervisor
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Fax: 281-574-8478
www.offdutymanagement.com



From: Kimberly Challender <Kimberly.Challender@recorder.pima.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 12:36 PM
To: admin account <admin@offdutymanagement.com>
Subject: RE: Schedule Changes for next week

Hi Angel,