



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



MAYOR PHIL GORDON

Statement by Mayor Phil Gordon
October 29, 2009

"I have complete respect for every man and woman who puts on a police uniform – from our newest patrol officer to our Public Safety Manager. I also respect and appreciate the challenges that any labor organization has in representing the rights of a large and diverse membership.

"In the case of the Phoenix Police Department, it was the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association's then-president and board who asked the City Manager, Mayor and Council in 2006 to keep Jack Harris in Phoenix, after his proposed retirement, with greatly expanded public safety duties.

"Many cities wanted to talk to Jack Harris about working for their communities. He could easily have gone to many large cities across the nation or many Valley cities right here, and made much more than he makes today.

"So, after a full legal review by the City Attorney and lawyers from the pension board, we followed PLEA's advice -- and our community has been reaping the benefits ever since. Actual numbers of crimes in Phoenix have gone down in each of the past three years, even in a bad economy and even as our population continues to grow. Violent crimes are their lowest in 4 years. Property crimes are their lowest in 16 years.

"PLEA's recommendation to retain Jack Harris was a good one, which I supported from the beginning and support today.

"I know this is selfish, but I'm glad Chief Harris is bringing those results to Phoenix and lowering crime *here*. Otherwise, another City would be benefiting from his experience and success."