

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



**United States Congress
U.S. House of Representatives**

Committee on Natural Resources

February 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

The Sub-Committee on Federal Lands

Hearing Topic

**“Biden’s Border Crisis:
The Consequences of Failing to Secure Federal Border Lands”**

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Opening Statement

Good Afternoon Chairman (Bruce) Westerman, Ranking Member (Raul) M. Grijalva and the Honorable members of this subcommittee. On behalf the citizens of Cochise County and the State of Arizona, and my fellow Sheriffs, Thank You for having me.

I have served our border communities for 40 years and prior to that, as a member of our military serving in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Huachuca located within Cochise County. I have always been a genuine believer in my Oath of Office to protect my Country, and now my County as the duly elected Sheriff for the past 12 years. I am the past-President of the Arizona Sheriffs Association, Chair of the National Sheriffs Association Border Security, the Executive Board for Western States Sheriffs and past leadership positions with the Southwest Border Sheriffs.

All these associations share 3-Objectives:

Public Safety, National Security and Humanitarian.

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all an overview of Cochise County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad and the ugly of being a border county. My office has always addressed border-related crimes, smuggling of both illicit drugs, humans, weapons and cash by our Transnational Organizations i.e. Criminal Cartels.

I am proud of our relationships with all our law enforcement partners that serve our communities.

To begin, I want to “Thank” our Customs & Border Patrol Officers and Agents who have worked tirelessly and diligently to protect this great nation. I want to “Thank” our Governors; Ducey and Hobbs and our State Congressional Members for all their support. The men and women of the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office for their dedication and commitment in keeping our communities safe. To all my fellow Sheriffs that stand united for the Rule of Law in the protection of their communities. And, finally, I want to “Thank” my citizens for their patience and support in a time of crisis and disarray.

To best understand my presentation is to understand where we were over 3 years ago. My county was one on the safest border counties based on our collective governmental efforts, prioritization, messaging and yes, enforcement efforts supported by the Rule of Law.

The direct impact to my county/office:

My citizens and law enforcement address mostly Got-Aways “Fight & Flight” in my County versus those giving up.

100% Camouflaged migrants being illegally smuggled by the Cartels, price tag per UDA begins at \$7000 and up.

These smugglers include juveniles being recruited via social media by the Criminal Cartels.

Border Related Booking (Detention) Costs over the last 24 months is \$9.4 million, absorbed by my local and state taxpayers.

Border-related Crime at an all-time high:

Death/Murder investigations, Illicit Drug Poisonings, Aggravated acts against my citizens, Failure to Yields, Search and Rescue/Recovery and yes, assaults against law enforcement officials.

My deputies/law enforcement continue to be placed in life-threatening scenarios as the Cartels shows no regard for my citizens and/or those that wear a badge.

Agents, Troopers, Deputies and Officers are addressing dangerous scenarios/criminals as a direct result of an “Open Border” exploited by these criminal cartels for Violence, Fear and Greed.

Cochise County Sheriff’s Office Detention Bookings related to Border:

In calendar years 2022/2023: 2884 Suspects booked into my jail for border-related crimes.
566 Smugglers (state law violation)
414 Failure to Yields
154 Non-Citizens
\$9.4 Million Cost to local/state

Fentanyl continues to poison/kill Americans at an alarming rate leaving families and communities devastated. Arizona efforts by law enforcement are remarkable, but the War on Drugs must be a priority topic and not deserted by political rhetoric. Arizona fentanyl seizures accounts for 51% of all the fentanyl seized in the country. In federal fiscal year 2022 Arizona seized over 60 million Fentanyl pills. The 4-Arizona border counties seized 35 million Fentanyl pills with an anticipated increase for 2023 Federal fiscal year.

In closing, my fellow Sheriffs and I have tried to partner with this administration to include the President of the United States with high hopes to share a **Collective Message, Collective Action Plan, Support the Rule of Law, Prioritize our southern border and provide updates reference Community Impacts and Concerns with little to no success.**

By allowing our border security mission and immigration laws to be discretionary, these Criminal Cartels continue to be the true winners, their exploitation of mankind is simply “Modern Day Slavery”; allowing thousands of pounds of illicit drugs into our country that continue to erode the core-values of families, schools and subsequently killing Americans on an average of 290 every day is completely unacceptable at any level. Experiencing migrant deaths without a reasonable process while members of our U.S. Congress and this Administration intentionally avoids reality is gross negligence.

Our voice of reason has been buried during what I call an “Intellectual Avoidance” by this Administration and yes, members of U.S. Congress. Communities have been neglected and abandoned relying on our own local and state resources to address a border that is in crisis mode.

Our southern border, against all public well-designed statements out of Washington D.C. is in the worst shape I have ever seen it. When one looks at Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian, our southern border is the largest crime scene in the country.

The morale of agents is extremely low, and the collective frustration is very high amongst law enforcement at all levels and most important, our citizens.

I am a true believer that Customs and Border Patrol are the experts of Border Security while Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are the experts of community, together, this is a Recipe of Success for all communities!

I will leave you with this final statement, we all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared Oaths of Office to keep them Safe, enhance their Quality of Life and Support the Rule of Law absent political affiliation or the concern of reelection; I ask each one of you to reflect on this statement as you make your next decision to vote.

Once again, I thank this committee for the invite and opportunity and now, stand ready to answer any questions by members.

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



United States House Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Introduction

Testimony of Mr. Mark J. Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, Arizona before the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Federal Lands reference a scheduled hearing on "Biden's Border Crisis: The Consequences of Failing to Secure Federal Border Lands." The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 8th, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the Cochise College, 901 Colombo Avenue, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.

Chairman Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member Raul M. Grijalva and Distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the invitation to speak to you today on this very important subject reference: **Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian and the impact to our Federal Lands.**

History of Cochise County

With eighty-three miles of international border within its jurisdiction, Cochise County plays a significant role in combating drug and human trafficking organizations and the associated violent crime which adversely affects Arizona residents and other areas throughout the United States. In 1990 the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated Cochise County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking area within southern Arizona. This designation is a direct result of overwhelming and sustained levels of illicit drug and human trafficking within Cochise County.

With 6,219 square miles, Cochise County is as large as the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. The estimated population of the county in 2022 is approximately 125,000. The geography of the county consists of seven incorporated cities to include the historical town of Tombstone. Surrounded by vast areas of desolate uninhabited desert and mountainous terrain, the seven cities only represent a combined area of 215 square miles, leaving 6004 square miles of unincorporated area. These desolate areas are routinely exploited for smuggling routes by the drug/human traffickers and pose one of the greatest challenges to local law enforcements effort in establishing border security and interdiction efforts. Cochise County is the 38th largest land mass county in the United States, and is home to the United States Army base, Fort Huachuca. Throughout the history of the county ranching and farming has played a significant part in its legacy.

Unlike other border counties in Arizona, Cochise County is unique in that there are two cities in the Republic of Mexico situated on the international border within the county. The cities of Agua Prieta and Naco, with an estimated population of 80,000 and 10,000 respectively, are well

know to U.S. Law Enforcement officials as staging and operational centers for one of Mexico's largest and most notorious drug cartels. The Sinaloa Cartel has long employed the use of local Mexican Drug and Human Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) to carry out the Cartel's illegal distribution and transportation of illicit drugs and humans into and throughout the United States.

These international DTOs also utilize their established smuggling routes in Cochise County to transport the Cartels illicit profits such as U.S. currency, firearms, and ammunition into Mexico. A large portion of the profit is used to sustain control over the corridor through the use of violence against law enforcement, rival trafficking organizations, and bribes of government officials.

The Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in Cochise County are highly sophisticated and innovative in their transportation methods. Aside from the normal use of human backpackers (mules), clandestine tunnels, and vehicles, the trafficking organizations have resorted to the use of ultra light aircraft which cannot be detected by normal radar, cloned vehicles appearing to be law enforcement or other legitimate companies and the use of catapults which hurl bundles of marijuana into the U.S. to awaiting co-conspirators. The organizations utilize sophisticated and technical communications and counter surveillance equipment to counter law enforcements interdiction tactics and strategies. Scouts or observers are strategically placed along smuggling routes to perform counter surveillance on law enforcement and report their observations to those controlling the drug/human smuggling operation so they may avoid and elude law enforcement. The use of cell phones and sophisticated two-way radio encryptions for communications are standard equipment, as are night vision and forward looking infra-red devices.

Violence against innocent citizens, public officials, law enforcement, and rival drug/human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate. Cochise County's law enforcement and private citizen fears of it spilling into the county were realized in 2010 when a longtime Cochise County resident rancher was senselessly murdered while inspecting fences on his ranch. Further complicating the concerns is the potential for foreign terrorist to employ drug/human trafficking organizations to smuggle individuals and or weapons of mass destruction into the United States through Cochise County.

The adverse affects of the drug and human trafficking organizations operating in Cochise County not only have significantly diminished the quality of life of county residents, but also placed unbearable strain upon the budgets and resources of private and government agencies in the county.

Historically speaking, illegal border crossings into the United States are well known in southern Arizona and recognized as a part of everyday life within Cochise County and throughout the southwest border. Many years ago, Cochise County citizens were not overly alarmed when they observed a handful of undocumented aliens travelling through private or public lands in search of jobs. Unfortunately, over time these groups dramatically increased in size and became more reckless, aggressive, and violent, bringing unrest and fear to the citizens living on the border. Examples of this include reckless high-speed pursuits, assaults on citizens, rapes, kidnappings, murders, and home invasions to steal one's private and personal possessions. It was apparent the search for the American dream was being over-shadowed by these smugglers, mules, coyotes, bandits, and transnational criminals preying upon our citizens and country.

Having the true-life experience to live and work as a law enforcement officer/deputy and now Sheriff in Cochise County since 1984, it has been an educational lesson for me reference border security. I have witnessed the escalation of violence by these careless assailants on our citizens raising the question, who actually controls our borders? Cochise County has become known as the gateway to illegal activity for those unlawfully entering the United States.

History: Federal Government's Border Security Plan of the 90s

In the early 1990s, the federal government prepared a plan to address the unsecure, unsafe border. At a press conference in Tucson, Arizona, a Border Patrol spokesman announced their intent to secure the populated areas of the border, specifically San Diego, Yuma and El Paso and the International Ports of Entry. These targeted areas, which I call the "Ps = Ports and Population", would be the federal government's focus points. The second half of their plan was to reroute the illegal activity/disturbances into the rural parts of the southwest border with the thought that these cartel organizations and smuggling groups would be deterred by the rugged and mountainous regions along the border.

Since the release of the plan, many changes have taken place. Specifically, Cochise County initially increased their staffing of Border Patrol agents to a sufficient number for the threat at that time. Over the last few years, it has again decreased from a significant force to a scant number within Cochise County to secure and protect the 83 miles of international border. Infrastructure, such as metal fencing, lightning, cameras, sensors, radars, etc. have been installed between both ports and some distance beyond bringing some needed relief to this area and those that live within. Unfortunately, upgrades were halted by President Biden's executive order on his first day of office leaving our border's infrastructure in disarray. Secondary immigration checkpoints were established on routes (roadways) 20 – 40 miles north of the border but due to staffing shortages, remains closed most of the time.

Over the last several years, our southern border has drastically changed for the worse. I have personally experienced our once manageable border become a crisis over the last 36 months supported by the attached statistics and increased criminal activity. The Covid health pandemic placed many restrictions on foreign travel, but the conversation regarding illegal entry at our southern border was neglected by our federal leaders. The health exposure and risk experienced by law enforcement officers, deputies and agents became secondary in public restrictions and concerns. In fact, the intellectual avoidance by this administration to actively engage and support our efforts has been absent. Certain members of U.S. Congress continue to ignore our immigration laws/crisis abandoning communities as they struggle to address these challenges. I would remind my fellow elected leaders, we share the same Oath of Office to protect this great country, not to be driven by personal ideologies, but by and for the People.

Sheriffs throughout the country have worked tirelessly to engage and provide solutions, (i.e. a 16-point action plan prepared by America's Sheriffs) with Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas with no success. As a result, the membership of Western States Sheriffs Association issued a Position statement of NO Confidence against Secretary Mayorkas and Vice President Harris.

The existing border plan has been in place for approximately 30 years and the following are some thoughts regarding the plan in current time:

- An increase in illegal smuggling/activity/illicit drugs between the protected areas (ports)
- Increase in larger groups of undocumented aliens between the protected areas (ports)
- Increase in illegal activity outside the protected areas (ports)
- Fear/Frustration increased in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Ranch and Farmlands damaged due to increased illegal activity
- Property (fencing, livestock, waterlines, etc.) damaged
- Burglaries/Thefts increased in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Social Media has become a venue for smuggling recruitment mainly focused on juveniles
- Violent Crimes increased i.e., Homicides, Assaults, Rapes, Drug and Human Smuggling, etc. in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Transnational Cartels/Smuggling Organizations controlled and set up smuggling routes in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Lack of Border Patrol Agents directly on border due to administrative processing assignments
- Secondary checkpoints were established as a secondary deterrent but remain closed the majority of the time due to staff shortages
- Lack of Re-Definition to the plan of the 90s (time erased history)
- Loss of recreational land use due to fear of criminal activity
- Economic decline
- Legacy Ranches being sold
- Lack of Federally elected leaders to address unsecure border/fears creating a lack of trust and anger by citizens
- Questionable/Absent consequences by our federal government by those committing border crimes
- Undue pressure on local law enforcement/Sheriffs/Community Leaders to address issues, fear, and consequences for those committing crimes
- Lack of funding for local law enforcement/criminal justice system/corrections in order to address border crimes at the local level due to federal government lack of intervention
- Border Security shall be a Mandate, not a Discretionary program
- Border Security v. Immigration Reform (two different programs not to be blended)
- Lack of Trust and Confidence in our Federal Government

Action-Based Solutions Local-State Government

Local Solutions and Programs are no longer a thought, but a reality for bringing relief to our citizens who consciously choose to live near our borders. No better example of the importance of local law enforcement during a national crisis was the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. First responders from local police and fire were the first on scene to address this horrific threat. Local law enforcement is best suited to best understand community needs and solutions based on the expectations of their citizens. Community policing begins and succeeds at the local level first.

As the Sheriff of Cochise County, I embrace my elected and statutory duty (oath of office to support the United States Constitution and the Arizona Constitution) to protect and secure the Freedoms and Liberties of my citizens, with or without the help of our federal law enforcement partners/policy makers. No longer a debate by those that live in the rural parts of the southwest border, the rural parts of the Southwest Border are NOT secure and are vulnerable for ALL types of transnational criminal activity.

Working with limited budgets and staffing, Sheriffs along the southwest border struggle each and every day to find ways to enhance the quality of life/safety for those they serve and bring a general sense of deterrence for those choosing our border as a venue to promote their criminal enterprises. The following bullet points are action-driven solutions implemented in hopes of bringing some relief and sense of security for those living in Cochise County:

- Balanced Community Policing (Education, Prevention, Enforcement)
- Transparency + Time = Community Trust
- Collaborated Efforts by all 3-levels of Government
- Creation of a Southwest Border Security Facility in Cochise County
- Law and Order Partnership between Sheriff and County Attorney
- Safe Street Enforcement Programs
- Private and Public Funding donations/grants to purchase upgraded equipment/communications
- Installation of New Radios/Towers/Consoles/Microwave
- Portable Radios to Citizens/Ranchers/Farmers/Schools
- Interoperability/Intelligence Sharing at all 3-levels
- Regional Application for Law Enforcement
- Financial Interdiction Unit
- Regional Border Team by Sheriff supported by Border Patrol, ICE, U.S. Forest
- Ranch Advisory Team
- Ranch Patrol
- Financial Crime Unit
- Consequence Driven Prosecution (all 3-levels)
- Virtual Cameras, Sensors, ATVs, Thermal Vehicle, Off-Road Vehicle, etc..
- Factual Situational Awareness for Media, Elected Officials, America
- Quarterly Law Enforcement Leadership Meetings
- Community Outreach Unit
- Community Meet & Greets within Communities
- Aviation Program (Helicopter & Drone)
- Positive-Interactive Use of Media and Social Media

Recommendations Federal Government

The Federal Government (elected and policy makers) has been slow to react to the voices and concerns of those living on the southwest border. Cochise County and other counties along the border have become VIP attractions, venues for those seeking to make a difference or promising change only to become another community-public safety disappointment.

The following comprehensive recommendations are directly linked to our federal leaders:

- Collective Message between Local, State and Federal
- Shared Action Plans by Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement
- Remove "Politics" and Enforce the "Rule of Law"
- Hire more Immigration and Asylum Hearing Officers for all POEs.
- Re-evaluate the plan of the 90s and build upon successes
- Political-Will required to make Border Security a Mandated Program
- Immediate need to address the Criminal Cartels (Transnational Organizations)
- Border Security First, Immigration Reform Second
- Maximize Allocated Resources such as Staffing
- Adequately Fund CBP
- Support and Embrace First-line Agents that work the border regions, they have a dangerous job and it's no secret that their frustration is high based on the unknown complexities reference their assignments, they have great ideas to share
- Secondary Checkpoints only after Primary border interdiction is satisfied by stakeholders
- Quality in Life/Citizens living on border supported by Sheriffs and State Governors regarding improved security/safety
- Funding supplement for Local Law Enforcement/Prosecution/Detention/Criminal Justice in support of border crimes
- Continued Funding and Support for Stone Garden Program
- Empowerment with action to Border Patrol Leadership/PAICs (currently Cochise County has dedicated and solution-driven leaders that work well with local law enforcement)
- Enhanced Funding for Regional Communication and Interoperability with local law enforcement
- Bring Local Law Enforcement to Border Security and Immigration discussions

Summary

Our local efforts have proven to be very beneficial in bringing over-due solutions to an unsecure border that has become a discretionary program by those federally elected leaders and policy makers that have been entrusted to protect our freedoms and liberties. As a Sheriff elected by the good people of my county, my biggest fear is another loss of life to one of my citizens and/or law enforcement officers/agents contributed to a border that is NOT secure. One would hope the priority of securing our border doesn't become just about a price tag and/or political posturing, but rather the legal and moral requirement to safeguard all of America, which so many heroic Americans have already paid the ultimate price for.

Today's opportunity to address this group instills fresh hope that our voice does matter and on behalf of the citizens of Cochise County, Arizona, our nation's Sheriffs and beyond, we hope you won't forget us and will do your Constitutional mandate to bring positive change to an over-due vulnerable situation.

I will leave each one of you with an open invitation to visit Cochise County along with a personal-guided tour and visit with our citizens to hear/see first-hand America's true rural border.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to share this information with you. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark J. Dannels

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Attachments

- a. Sheriff Mark Dannels' Bio
- b. CCSO Annual Message 2024
- c. CCSO Annual Message 2023
- d. CCSO Annual Message 2022
- e. CCSO Border Related Issues in 2022
- f. CCSO Multi-Tier Border Operational Plan
- g. CCSO Detention Statistical Form 2023
- h. CCSO Detention Statistical Form 2022
- i. CCSO State of the Arizona-Sonora Border 2023
- j. Cochise County Mayors' Letter 2024
- k. Arizona House of Representatives 2023
- l. National Sheriffs Letter ref Call for Action at the Border Threat Picture 2023
- m. Cochise County Multi-Agency Public Safety Announcement 2023
- n. National Sheriffs Letter ref Eradication of Drug Cartels 2023
- o. National Sheriffs Letter to White House 2023
- p. State of Arizona Legislative Proclamation 2022
- q. Arizona Sheriffs Vote of No Confidence V.P. Harris 2022
- r. Southwest Border Sheriffs Coalition Vote of No Confidence V.P. Harris 2022
- s. Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition Vote of No Confidence V.P. Harris 2022
- t. Western States Sheriffs' Association Vote of No Confidence V.P. Harris 2022
- u. Western States Sheriffs' Association Vote of No Confidence Sec. Mayorkas
- v. National Sheriffs' Association Letter to White House 2021
- w. Wildlife Photos on the International Border



Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Since November 2012, Sheriff Mark J. Dannels has been elected by the good citizens of Cochise County to serve as their 26th Cochise County Sheriff since 1881. I continue to be Humbled, Honored and Dedicated to my oath of office for this incredible opportunity to serve you all with my personal commitment to sustain your Quality of Life as you would expect, and your Freedoms and Liberties as scribed in the United States and Arizona Constitutions.

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels is a 40-year veteran of law enforcement. He holds a master's degree in criminal justice management from Aspen University and is a Certified Public Manager from Arizona State University. He has over 3000 hours of law enforcement training in his portfolio. He attended Disney's Leadership and Executive Training programs and is a graduate of the Rural Executive Management Institute. He began his law enforcement career in 1984 after serving a successful tour in the United States Army. He progressed through the ranks with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to the position of Deputy Commander after working numerous specialty assignments and leadership roles to include appointments by Arizona Governors for his dedicated efforts directed toward public safety standards.

Sheriff Dannels is a long time member of the Fraternal Order of Police, past member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council, current member of the National Sheriffs Association where he serves as the Border Security Chairman, Southwest Border Sheriffs Executive Board, Western States Sheriffs Association Executive Board, Arizona Sheriffs Association where he serves as past-president, Chair of the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Arizona Homeland Security-Regional Advisory Council, Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats, Border Security Advisory Council, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and serves on several community service groups; San Pedro Kiwanis, Just Kids Inc., CASA, Sierra Vista Elks, the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Vista, former Varsity Wrestling Coach at Buena High School, and teaches at Wayland Baptist University and Cochise College. Sheriff Dannels participates in many community outreach programs such as Project Graduation, Sizzle, Stocking Stuffers, Community Haunted House, Men who Cook, Kars for Kids, Miss Sierra Vista and Shop with a Cop.

Sheriff Dannels has been recognized and awarded the Medal of Valor, Western States Sheriff of the Year, Herald/Review Person of the Year, Outstanding Business Person of the Year, Western States Sheriff Star, Marquis Who's Who, Sheriff's Medal, Deputy of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Unit Citation Award, National Police Hall of Fame, Lifesaving Award and dozens of community-service awards from service groups and governmental organizations.

Sheriff Dannels is married to Nickie, a Registered Nurse. They have three sons, Justin, a Police Officer/Sergeant with the City of Sierra Vista, Ryan a Firefighter/Paramedic with the City of Sierra Vista, and Corey, a Lineman with the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative.

Sheriff Dannels has 3 primary objectives: Organizational Development, Border Security and Community Outreach.

"A Sheriff for All the People"

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



2024 Annual Message

As I enter my 40th year in law enforcement, I continue to ask, where did the time go. I reflect back to 1984 when I entered the law enforcement profession. I distinctly recall how excited I was to wear the badge and serve my community. That emotional feeling continues today. Many ask me what my future holds. This year's annual message will highlight my 4-decade blessed career invested with passion, dedication, and my future plans.

The career passage of endless opportunities is a figure of speech many have heard, but how many have practiced. I have always been an opportunist seeking personal and professional innovations, advanced education, and most important, betterment in all I do on behalf of those I serve. These core values are complimented when one embraces an organization's "Pride in Ownership." I will admit, my journey didn't come without some frustration and/or lack of clarity. No matter how complex the challenges were, my law enforcement vision never became blurred by the "Whys."

My intent is clear, based on the will of the citizens of Cochise County, my high hope is to continue my public safety service as your sheriff and community-advocate.

A second question I frequently get asked is my intention to run for a higher elected office. Let me put this thought to rest, I have no intent to do anything but serve as your sheriff. I am honored and humbled to be your Sheriff where my expertise, talents, and passion serves us all. I couldn't imagine doing anything else! I continue to believe in our community-mission and most important, you!

The complexities facing our profession are not getting any simpler. I am proud to acknowledge our agency's cultural standards are on the front-line of defense and protection to ensure our team-members are well-provided and prepared in their time of need. The matching component helping to sustain our successes is our community reputation. The relationship we share with those we serve is built around transparency, investments and time that calculates into trust. Our influential leadership is vital to our ongoing partnerships and public safety programs. These collective ingredients produce a quality consumer product that I am very proud of.

The objectives for this year will be a continuation of sustained programs, i.e. border security to include our new border operational facility, development of a new jail via the jail district, community outreach, and operational enhancement for the men and women who honorably serve this office via Recruitment, Retention, Recognition, Reward, Respect, Responsibility and finally, a well-earned Retirement.

In summary, my commitment to you remains steadfast. I yield to my past decisions, actions and leadership that has been tested, challenged, and evaluated by you. I will continue to stand united with you in the protection of the "Rule of Law" and your "Freedoms and Liberties" as stated in my Oath of Office as scribed within the people's law. Thank You for the opportunity and honor to serve you for another year as together, we share one team and one community-mission.

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

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Sheriff's Annual Message

2023

Another Year has quickly passed, and the lessons and successes are now engrained within our legacy. The legacy of this office is rich with history brought forth by the plethora of talented men and women who have served our mission. That's where I would like to begin with this year's annual message.

In a time where organizations continue to face many challenges, leadership plays an instrumental role in addressing these complex times. Our leaders must understand that in today's workplace, there's not a single answer to motivate our team-members. We must maximize your talents in such a way that it collectively compliments the mission. The validation of our team-members is vital to the overall success of this office.

In this ever-changing workplace terrain, leaders need to think differently about how to motivate their teams. Leaders must be innovative, creative, and forward thinking. Diverting from the traditional ways of leading that have become too predictable and uninspiring are essential.

My cultural expectations begin with my senior leaders with transparent transition down to each one of you. These expectations include the following: Developing You, Leading Change, Navigating different Perspectives, Leading Teams and Career Confidence and Security. Leadership is simple, but never easy! I have great confidence with my leadership teams and will continue to empower and challenge them to adhere to the words within this annual message to promote our community message, mission and most important, you.

My priorities in 2023 are defined based on two words, **"Investment and Reputation."** I will begin with Investment.

The personal and professional investments you make every day enhances our abilities and opportunities. The countless educational, prevention and enforcement grants and programs, team-member market adjustments, recruitment and retention, state of the art equipment and technology, updated training and our continued community support come from your willingness to do what's legally, morally, and ethically "Right". We will always enforce the Rule of Law based on the facts, absent politics, opinions, social media, and emotions.

Secondly, our earned and respected reputation are integrated into our community culture. A culture that embraces and dictates our behavior supported by our public safety Oath of Office. We are Role Models and when we fail to fulfill this obligation, one must make that difficult decision, "Are able to serve others?" I am so proud of the men and women who without thought and unselfish

commitment place their lives in danger to help their fellow man. You truly are the strength and foundation to all our achievements promoting a continued legacy for this office.

In closing, your health, welfare, and safety are always paramount to me. Sadly, last year proved to be a year of uncertainty and great danger to the men and women of this office. As demonstrated over the last year and beyond, my leadership team and myself will “always” be there in your time of need to ensure you and your family have the support, resources, comfort, and structure to address these life-threatening scenarios. You’ll **never** be left alone!

Please be vigilant out there and Thank You for your Service to this Office and our Citizens!

With Great Pride and Honor,

Mark J. Dannels

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Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Thomas Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



Annual Message from the Desk of Sheriff Mark J. Dannels 2022

Our law enforcement profession continues to be under a public microscope of scrutiny by those that possess a personal bias toward those that wear the badge. Unfortunately, political ideologies have infected our profession at all levels too. This general application of distaste directed at those that protect your communities and constitutional rights has created a negative impact on our profession.

Rural policing makes up over 88% of all the policing in America leaving less than 12% of policing for urban communities. My 37-year law enforcement career has been enjoyed in rural communities where the layers of bureaucracy are limited, and neighbors still know you by first name. Rural policing is special to me for all the right reasons. But no one can debate that rural policing faces many challenges. Recruitment and retention supported by compensation parity continues to hinder rural policing. Cochise County is no exception.

Since being elected, I have prioritized our loyal team-members with high hopes we can retain and pay these dedicated members a fair and market-driven compensation package. I commend members of our Board of Supervisors and you for sharing our vision as we have sustained competitive salaries for rural Cochise County. My commitment remains steadfast that we must remain competitive to retain our talented and skilled team-members supported by a vigorous marketing and recruiting program. Recruitment and retention are supported by team-member recognition and reward for their public service. An effort I have instilled with all my leadership team. I am proud to showcase the high caliber of men and women that serve this office's community mission.

To refresh our office's 3-objectives; Education, Prevention (awareness) and Enforcement. These blended objectives continue to serve our office well with a focus on Education and Prevention. Any community bond requires a shared trust. The ingredients of trust include your Sheriff's Office embracing a culture of community support. Culture equals behavior that is acceptable to our citizens guided by a progressive training and legal update program. Finally, our primary written expectation will always be our "Oath of Office."

The success of any law enforcement agency rests with its community reputation. I accept, we own our decisions, but the community owns our reputation. I take this action very seriously which reflects the positive reputation we possess with you and throughout the state. Once again, I credit our team-members for this earned reputation.

Additional priorities in 2022 will be our aging jail, continued partnerships, innovative programs in securing our border communities, fiscal responsibilities, implementation of a traffic unit to address traffic concerns with a focus on the impaired driver and most important, the continued relationship we share with you. The role of government shall never be governed within, but by those that we govern for.

I look forward to leading your Sheriff's Office in 2022 and conclude by saying this, "If the past has taught us anything, our challenges have become our successes." Thank you again for this tremendous opportunity as we come together to safeguard our home, Cochise County!

Authored with Respect and Honor,



Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff



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SITUATION REPORT FOR BORDER RELATED ISSUES IN COCHISE COUNTY. Calendar Year 2022

Border Related Criminal Activity investigated by SABRE and CIT in 2022:

- 1) 66,620 Undocumented Aliens detected on SABRE Cameras.
- 2) Approximately 25,500 Undocumented Aliens physically apprehended (SABRE joint apprehensions).
- 3) 109.74 pounds of methamphetamine.
- 4) Over 1500 smugglers arrive in Cochise County every month to smuggle migrants from the border at a price of over \$2,500 per person.
- 5) Investigated 1,306 human smuggling events.
- 6) Investigated 882 human smugglers.
- 7) Detained 89 juvenile smugglers.
- 8) Arrested 232 smugglers for failure to yield incidents.
- 9) Seized 40 weapons.
- 10) Investigated incidents in which 601 people were feloniously victimized.
- 11) Detained 3049 undocumented aliens (Safe Streets/CIT direct apprehensions).

Detention related statistics.

- 1) 1578 inmates were booked into CCSO Detention in 2022 for a border related crime. Of those, 1500 were United States Citizens.

SABRE Overview:

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$18 million dollars.

The Southern Arizona Border Region Enforcement Team is comprised of CCSO Deputies, United States Border Patrol Agents, and the Arizona National Guard. Nearly 900 cameras have been placed onto smuggling corridors across southern Arizona and New Mexico. 50 of which have been turned over to Fort Huachuca for use.

To ensure the future of the SABRE program, CCSO has been awarded an agreement from AZDEMA for over \$18 million dollars. This funding will fully fund SABRE for a period of five (5) years. This includes six (6) Sworn LEO positions, a (1) Public Information Officer, an (1) Intel Analyst, two (2) IT specialists, four (4) camera maintenance personnel, twenty (20) camera monitors, and (2) camera monitor supervisors.

Criminal Interdiction Team;

AZDEMA Grant Award: 3.7 million dollars.

A six-person team responsible for smuggling and trafficking interdiction throughout the County. This team will be fully funded for a period of four years. This will be done by conducting close patrol of smuggling corridors through a high volume of traffic stops in these areas. They respond to calls for service from USBP and patrol units dealing with illegal trafficking or smuggling whether human or drug related. The unit may also work with United States Customs Enforcement at the Ports of Entry in Cochise County to help support northbound and southbound operations.

Cochise County Aviation Program.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$9,069,000

This program is funded for a period of five (5) years and will cover all associated costs to fund a helicopter program. This helicopter will be stationed at the Sierra Vista Airport, be available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The helicopter will be outfitted with the most technologically advanced cameras and night vision equipment available.

Pursuit Termination Vehicles.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$1,947,500.00

This program funds the purchase of fifteen (15) Pursuit Termination Vehicles with all associated training and equipment. These vehicles will be customized with special bumpers to help immobilize fleeing vehicles and bring deadly pursuits to a conclusion.

Next Generation Radios.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$6 million dollars.

This agreement funds the purchase of five hundred (500) next generation radios. These radios will be issued to every first responder (Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS) in Cochise County. This allows for reliable communication between all governmental entities.

SABRE Equipment.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$1,775,000.

In 2021 (before the above SABRE grant), we received \$1,775,000 to fund the purchase of buckeye game trail cameras, artificial intelligence software, and four drones.

Incarceration and Prosecution Costs.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$7,305,000

In 2021, CCSO acquired funding to cover the incarceration and prosecution costs for persons charged with a border related crime. Roughly 40% of inmates incarcerated are in-custody due to border related offense.

Dispatch Equipment.

AZDEMA Grant Award: \$250,000

This award will fund the purchase of two (2) reserve ORNI dispatch consoles to be used as back-up dispatch services should something occur to the primary system.

Cochise County Mental Health Support Team.

Grant from the Legacy Foundation of Southeastern Arizona: \$1.3 million dollars.

This grant funds the Mental Health Support Team for a period of three (3) years. The team is comprised of three (3) licensed behavioral health professionals and one (1) Behavioral Health Technician who respond to members of the community who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Additionally, they take a proactive approach in connecting mentally ill persons with available programs and services.

Opioid Settlement.

Arizona Attorney General's Office grant: \$250,000.

This grant funds the purchase of a community outreach vehicle, overtime for issues dealing with opioids, and money for educating the community about opioids.

Southeast AZ Combined Intelligence and Border Operations Center.

Arizona DPS/Border Strike Force Funds: \$5 million dollars.

Funds the purchase and renovation of a building to enhance law enforcement services concerning the activities of criminal syndicates, drug and human smuggling organizations and transnational threats related to the US/Mexico border with Cochise County.

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff



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Cochise County Sheriff's Office Multi-Tier Border Operational Plan

Of the 15 counties in the State of Arizona, four (4) of those counties are on the international border with Mexico. Cochise County is responsible for 83 miles of that border with federal, state, and local partners. Cochise County Sheriff's Office has developed special units to combat border related crimes/activities emphasizing on local level participation and enforcement.

Southern Arizona Combined Intelligence and Border Operations Center

The center serves as a local hub for intelligence capabilities, enforcement operations, and information sharing of border related activities among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Operation Center is a place for Deputies, Police Officers, State Troopers and Federal Agents to interact and prepare border operations to combat unlawful border crossers and criminal elements. The Operations Center will host the Southern Arizona Region Enforcement Virtual Camera System, Intelligence Gathering for State, Local and Federal Agencies, Criminal Interdiction Safe Street Enforcement Activities, License Plate Readers (LPR) Intelligence, and Human Trafficking Investigations.

The Border Operation Center will allow future expansions with National Sheriff's Association, Western State Sheriffs Association, Southwest Border Sheriff's Association, Major Counties Sheriff's Association, and International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The following is a list of Cochise County Sheriff's Office units utilizing the center:

Southern Arizona Region Enforcement (SABRE)
Criminal Interdiction Team (CIT)
Street Crimes Unit (SCU)
Financial Crimes Unit (FCU)
Major Crimes Unit (MCU)
Human Intelligence and Trafficking Unit
Community Outreach Public Service (COPS)

Southern Arizona Region Enforcement (SABRE)

The Southeast Arizona Border Region Enforcement (SABRE) is a multi-agency task force targeting narcotics and human smuggling operations. SABRE has been very successful using approximately 900 surveillance/camera systems strategically placed along the US/Mexico Border to detect illegal crossing, narcotic smuggling, and identifying open areas which allow illegal activity to come into United States via the southern border. SABRE works closely with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to successfully prepare and investigate cases for appropriate legal action and resolution. Due to changes in border policies, Cochise County is seeing an uncontrollable influx of unlawful border crossers. Calls for service reference Border Patrol assists have increased in the last several months regarding trespassers and suspicious activity.

Current SABRE statistical data for US/Mexico Border Operations is:

Undocumented Aliens – 139,917

Drug Smuggling Mules – 442

Marijuana Seized – 12,040.77 LBS

Meth Seized – 199.02 LBS

Fentanyl – 24.14 LBS

Cocaine – 8.70 LBS

Criminal Interdiction Team (CIT)

CIT is responsible for trafficking interdiction in Cochise County Arizona. This is done by conducting close patrol of known areas (corridors) of trafficking, through interstate and state highway interdiction, and through a high volume of traffic stops in these areas. CIT utilizes social meeting to interdict human and narcotic load drivers and pick up locations. The unit also responds to calls for service where assistance is needed from USBP and or patrol units dealing with illegal trafficking whether human or drug related. The unit also is responsible for assisting with calls, such as burglaries or suspicious activities where suspected Undocumented Aliens may be responsible. The unit also works with United States Customs Enforcement at the Ports of Entry in Cochise County to help support northbound and southbound screenings for any illegal activity.

Current CIT statistical data for US/Mexico Border Operations is:

1,306 Human Smuggling Investigations

89 Juvenile Load Drivers

882 Smugglers turned over to BP

40 Weapons seized

3049 UDA released to BP

138 Arrested for Humans Smuggling

Street and Financial Crimes (SCU and FCU)

In Cochise County, the 83 miles of the international border shared by the U.S. and Mexico has been described as a "smuggling heaven" because it is "one of the most remote areas of the border." The infamous Sinaloa Cartel has historically dominated drug and human smuggling routes from Mexico. These facts have presented unique problems for Cochise County Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement. Transnational criminal organizations have an endless supply of local low-level criminal networks to facilitate their day-to-day criminal operations in our community. Now through social media

they have extended the recruitment to the rest of the country, and illegal operations have exploded.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office responded to this unique problem by combining several high-functioning units and creating the Street Crimes Unit. The Street Crimes Unit conducts unified investigations targeting organized crime. The unit consists of deputies trained in specialized disciplines, such as drug investigations, anti-money laundering investigations, digital forensics, and canines. Through independent investigations and collaborative efforts with Federal, State, and local partners and drug enforcement initiatives, they investigate organized and street-level criminal activity within Cochise County. They are primarily focused on the detection and arrest of couriers and other felony criminal offenders involved in the smuggling or trafficking of humans, illegal drugs, weapons, and currency.

These organized criminal organizations exploit those vulnerable individuals based on "non-consensual" human trafficking. These victims are criminally exploited via sex trade, drugs, labor and gangs all for financial greed to enhance these transnational criminal organizations. We have established a network unit of intelligence and enforcement sharing to identify, protect and secure those held captive by these criminal organizations.

Major Crimes Unit (MCU)

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit (MCU) is tasked with the investigation of felony crimes committed within the county. MCU unit prepares cases for appropriate legal action. MCU is routinely tasked with investigating border-related crimes such as Border Patrol agent-involved shootings, and physical assaults on agents. MCU investigates UDI's claiming allegations of sexual assault by other members of their crossing group or smugglers. They are also commonly tasked with the recovery and investigation of border crossers found deceased in the Arizona desert.

MCU consists of a sergeant, 6 detectives, and a crime scene investigator.

Community Outreach Public Services (COPS)

The Community Outreach and Public Services Unit is committed to fostering and building a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the community by providing essential programs and services that promote an environment in which members of the community individually and collectively can help prevent crime, build safer communities, and advance the quality of life here in Cochise County.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to forming positive relationships with all organizations within the communities of Cochise County. To help in this effort, one of the first changes made within a month of taking office was the appointment of a Community Services Deputy, which was shortly followed by the development of the Community Outreach and Public Services Unit. This unit is responsible for serving as a liaison between the Sheriff's Office and community organizations.

COPS services include, receive and coordinate requests for activities from area organizations and schools; communicate with district supervisory personnel on the requirement and need for additional equipment/personnel; maintain active communication with schools and organizations to assess needs and services the Sheriff's Office can provide; provide information on upcoming activities to the Public Information Officer(s) so that local news organizations can be notified; obtain or create educational materials to fulfill the needs of the requesting public; attend public meetings to assess needs of the citizens and educate them on Sheriff's Office organization and procedures; attend Community and School Events; and School Safety and Crime Prevention (Threat Assessments and Active Shooter Presentations).

Cochise County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the most visible to the public, and has more deputies assigned to it than any other division.

To effectively provide service to the 6,215 square miles that comprise Cochise County, the Sheriff's Office has six dedicated substations and one satellite substation with three regional patrol districts. The six dedicated substations are located as follows:

- o Region 1: Sierra Vista, Bisbee
- o Region 2: Benson, Willcox, with the one satellite substation located in Bowie
- o Region 3: Douglas, Elfrida

Each area, or region, is supervised by a lieutenant and one or more sergeants. The number of personnel assigned to each area is dependent upon such factors as the number of calls for service that originate from the area and the size of the service population. Region 1 has the most deputies assigned to it as that area contains a population approximately equal to half the total population of the county. Region 1 is also the only region that has a dedicated 24 hours a day, seven days a week operation. The other regions often go to an "on call" status during the early morning hours. Due to the "on call" requirement, deputies are required to reside within a 30-minute drive of their station of assignment.

Conclusion

The collective law enforcement efforts and measures to secure our southern border and protect our Cochise County citizens and the State of Arizona has proven to be both efficient and effective. This operational model based on **Public Safety, National Security and Humanitarian** continues to be a deterrent and consequence driven initiative to hold those accountable for violating our laws and most important, the Rule of Law.

The expansion of this model partnered with our nation's Sheriffs and fellow law enforcement agencies and associations and those elected to protect Americans serves to illustrate by action highlighting the importance of our Oath of Office.

These programs have been made possible through government and private grants/donations allowing this office to fund; equipment, vehicles, overtime, personnel to include employee related expenses, aircraft, detention costs, technology and miscellaneous expenses that would prevent most organizations from pursuing these innovative measures.

This office and I stand able and ready to assist any law enforcement organization and community/state to enhance our operational capabilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know, (520) 432-9505 office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark J. Dannels

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels
Cochise County, AZ.

COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (2023)

FAILURE TO YIELD												TOTALS													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE	13	8	34	14	28	19	13	17	16	18	19	7	206												
SIERRA VISTA	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	20												
WILCOX	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	8												
ARS-2323												234													
BISBEE	35	15	37	25	35	30	32	40	31	34	49	18	381												
SIERRA VISTA	5	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	32												
WILCOX	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	0	14												
BORDER CRIMES												427													
BISBEE	89	86	121	112	134	122	114	133	107	106	119	86	1329												
SIERRA VISTA	28	33	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	25	145												
WILCOX	12	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	15	10	7	3	56												
NON-US CITIZENS												1530													
BISBEE	3	7	20	3	13	2	3	1	3	6	1	1	63												
SIERRA VISTA	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7												
WILCOX	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4												
BOOKINGS												74													
BISBEE	175	189	260	261	335	332	315	342	297	292	306	214	3318												
SIERRA VISTA	71	74	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	65	397												
WILCOX	31	21	5	0	0	0	0	4	28	28	21	18	156												
FELONY BOOKINGS												3871													
BISBEE	116	121	167	168	191	197	172	191	166	149	154	118	1910												
SIERRA VISTA	44	49	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	34	213												
WILCOX	16	12	3	0	0	0	0	1	21	17	12	5	87												
MISDEMEANOR BOOKINGS												2210													
BISBEE	86	90	132	117	189	181	169	189	151	157	163	116	1740												
SIERRA VISTA	37	32	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	33	207												
WILCOX	21	14	3	0	0	0	0	3	8	17	15	14	95												
BORDER FELONY BOOKINGS												2042													
BISBEE	86	82	104	107	120	113	103	125	107	94	109	68	1218												
SIERRA VISTA	27	31	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	22	133												
WILCOX	10	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	14	10	6	2	51												
BORDER MISDEMEANOR BOOKINGS												1402													
BISBEE	5	6	7	7	12	9	11	8	3	13	6	11	98												
SIERRA VISTA	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10												
WILCOX	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	9												
												117													

COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (2023)

RELEASES		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE		234	235	277	268	335	318	307	325	283	287	322	247
SIERRA VISTA		57	51	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	41
WILLCOX		12	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	8	8	8	9
TOTAL		303	290	473	268	335	318	307	325	283	287	332	297

CONTRABAND FOUND AT BOOKING		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE		0	3	13	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	3	3
SIERRA VISTA		0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
WILLCOX		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	3	15	1	2	1	1	2	0	3	4	3

COMBATIVE OR RESISTANT ARRESTEES		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE		2	3	15	4	4	1	1	4	2	8	3	4
SIERRA VISTA		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WILLCOX		3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		5	4	15	4	4	1	1	4	2	8	3	4

JUVENILES		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
(14) YEARS OF AGE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
(15) YEARS OF AGE		2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0
(16) YEARS OF AGE		0	0	1	1	5	1	0	2	1	2	4	0
(17) YEARS OF AGE		4	1	3	1	4	0	3	1	4	1	4	2
TOTAL		6	1	4	2	9	1	5	3	5	3	5	2

2021 BORDER CRIMES INCARCERATION COSTS		Q1 - January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022	Q2 - April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022	Q3 - July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022	Q4 - October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	TOTAL
2021 BORDER CRIMES INCARCERATED AVERAGE		26,001,845.02	26,044,526.9	27,987,927.57	28,979,838.71	27.25
Q1 - January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022		\$656,927.49	\$880,283.26	\$1,239,426.80	\$1,592,437.56	\$4,309,075.11
Q2 - April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022		\$880,283.26	\$1,239,426.80	\$1,592,437.56	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11
Q3 - July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022		\$1,239,426.80	\$1,592,437.56	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11
Q4 - October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022		\$1,592,437.56	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11	\$4,309,075.11
TOTAL		\$831,285.00	\$831,285.00	\$831,285.00	\$831,285.00	\$831,285.00

2022 BORDER CRIMES INCARCERATION COSTS		Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023	Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023	Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023	Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	TOTAL
2022 BORDER CRIMES MEDICAL COSTS		\$1,337,462.63	\$1,180,475.47	\$1,312,040.41	\$1,353,653.67	\$5,183,632.18
Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023		\$1,337,462.63	\$1,180,475.47	\$1,312,040.41	\$1,353,653.67	\$5,183,632.18
Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023		\$1,180,475.47	\$1,312,040.41	\$1,353,653.67	\$1,337,462.63	\$5,183,632.18
Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023		\$1,312,040.41	\$1,353,653.67	\$1,337,462.63	\$1,180,475.47	\$5,183,632.18
Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023		\$1,353,653.67	\$1,337,462.63	\$1,180,475.47	\$1,312,040.41	\$5,183,632.18
TOTAL		\$5,183,632.18	\$5,183,632.18	\$5,183,632.18	\$5,183,632.18	\$5,183,632.18

2023 BORDER CRIMES TOTAL TOTAL INMATE DAYS		Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023	Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023	Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023	Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	TOTAL
2023 BORDER CRIMES MEDICAL COSTS		\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023		\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023		\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$120,843.48
Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023		\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$120,843.48
Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023		\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
TOTAL		\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48

2023 BORDER CRIMES TOTAL TOTAL INMATE DAYS		Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023	Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023	Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023	Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	TOTAL
2023 BORDER CRIMES MEDICAL COSTS		\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
Q1 - January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023		\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
Q2 - April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023		\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$120,843.48
Q3 - July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023		\$40,281.16	\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$120,843.48
Q4 - October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023		\$40,281.16	\$15,627.74	\$24,653.42	\$40,281.16	\$120,843.48
TOTAL		\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48	\$120,843.48

2023		TOTAL FEL. BOOKINGS	TOTAL MIS. BOOKINGS	BORDER FEL. BOOKINGS	BORDER MIS. BOOKINGS	ARS 13-2323	TOTAL BOOKINGS
2023		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
TOTAL FEL. BOOKINGS		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
TOTAL MIS. BOOKINGS		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
BORDER FEL. BOOKINGS		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
BORDER MIS. BOOKINGS		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
ARS 13-2323		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871
TOTAL BOOKINGS		2210	2042	1402	117	427	3871

COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (2022)

RELEASES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE	174	133	248	207	234	266	287	270	253	263	263	212
SIERRA VISTA	56	65	64	56	44	47	35	24	25	30	21	35
WILCOX	0	6	29	23	25	25	32	0	0	13	9	5
TOTAL	230	204	341	286	303	338	356	294	278	306	293	252

CONTRABAND FOUND AT BOOKING	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE	0	0	0	6	3	5	1	5	2	1	4	3
SIERRA VISTA	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
WILCOX	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	0	8	6	6	2	5	2	3	4	4

COMBATIVE OR RESISTANT ARRESTEES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BISBEE	0	0	0	4	7	10	2	5	2	3	5	4
SIERRA VISTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WILCOX	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	1	6	8	10	4	5	2	3	5	5

JUVENILES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
(14) YEARS OF AGE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(15) YEARS OF AGE	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
(16) YEARS OF AGE	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
(17) YEARS OF AGE	4	0	2	2	2	0	4	2	2	3	1	3
TOTAL	5	0	4	4	3	2	5	2	2	3	2	4

2021 BORDER CRIMES INCARCERATION COSTS	Q1 - January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022	Q2 - April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022	Q3 - July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022	Q4 - October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	TOTAL
2021 BORDER CRIMES INCARCERATION COSTS	\$656,927.49	\$880,283.26	\$1,239,426.80	\$1,528,003.60	\$4,304,641.15

2022 BORDER CRIMES AVERAGE DAYS INCARCERATED	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
2022 BORDER CRIMES AVERAGE DAYS INCARCERATED	21.77288136	19.34459459	24.994	29.19168174	23.83

2022 BORDER CRIMES TOTAL DAYS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
2022 BORDER CRIMES TOTAL DAYS	6423	8589	12497	16143	43652

2022 BORDER CRIMES TRANSPORTS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
2022 BORDER CRIMES TRANSPORTS	212	252	379	0	843

2022 BORDER CRIMES BOOKINGS	TOTAL FEL BOOKINGS	TOTAL MIS. BOOKINGS	BORDER FEL. BOOKINGS	BORDER MIS. BOOKINGS	ARS 13-2323	TOTAL BOOKINGS
2022 BORDER CRIMES BOOKINGS	2153	1856	1253	325	139	3547

State of the Arizona-Sonora
Border.

Presented by:
The Cochise County
Sheriff's Office



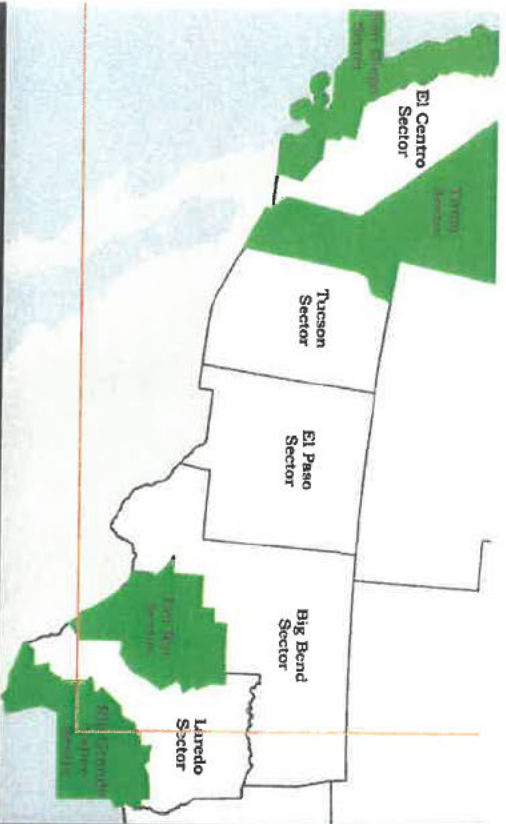
Cochise County: Ground Zero for America's Border Crisis.



Arizona: Currently, the fentanyl capital of the Nation.

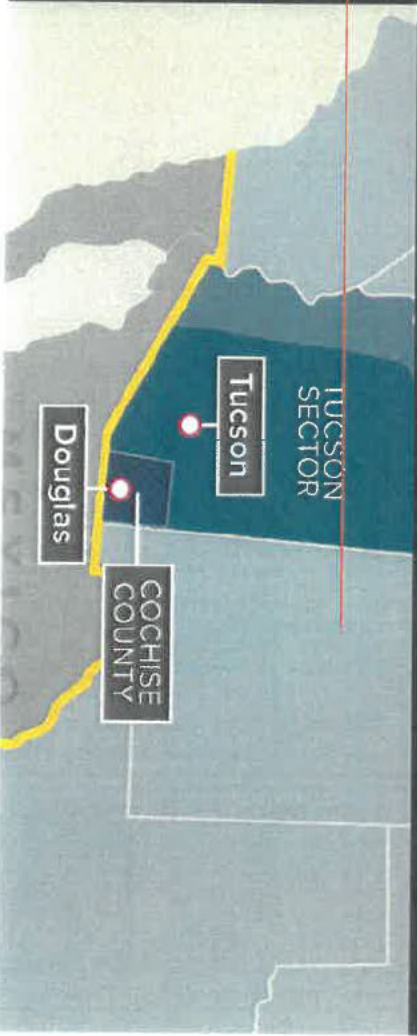
- An estimated 136,724,650 fentanyl pills were seized in the United States in 2022.
- Over 50% (68,362,323) of all fentanyl seized in 2022, was seized in Arizona.
- Of the 68,362,323 pills seized in Arizona, 46.74% (31,954,213) were seized within Cochise County or within 20 miles of Cochise County. This equates to **23.37% of all fentanyl seized** in the United States was seized within Cochise County or within 20 miles of Cochise County.

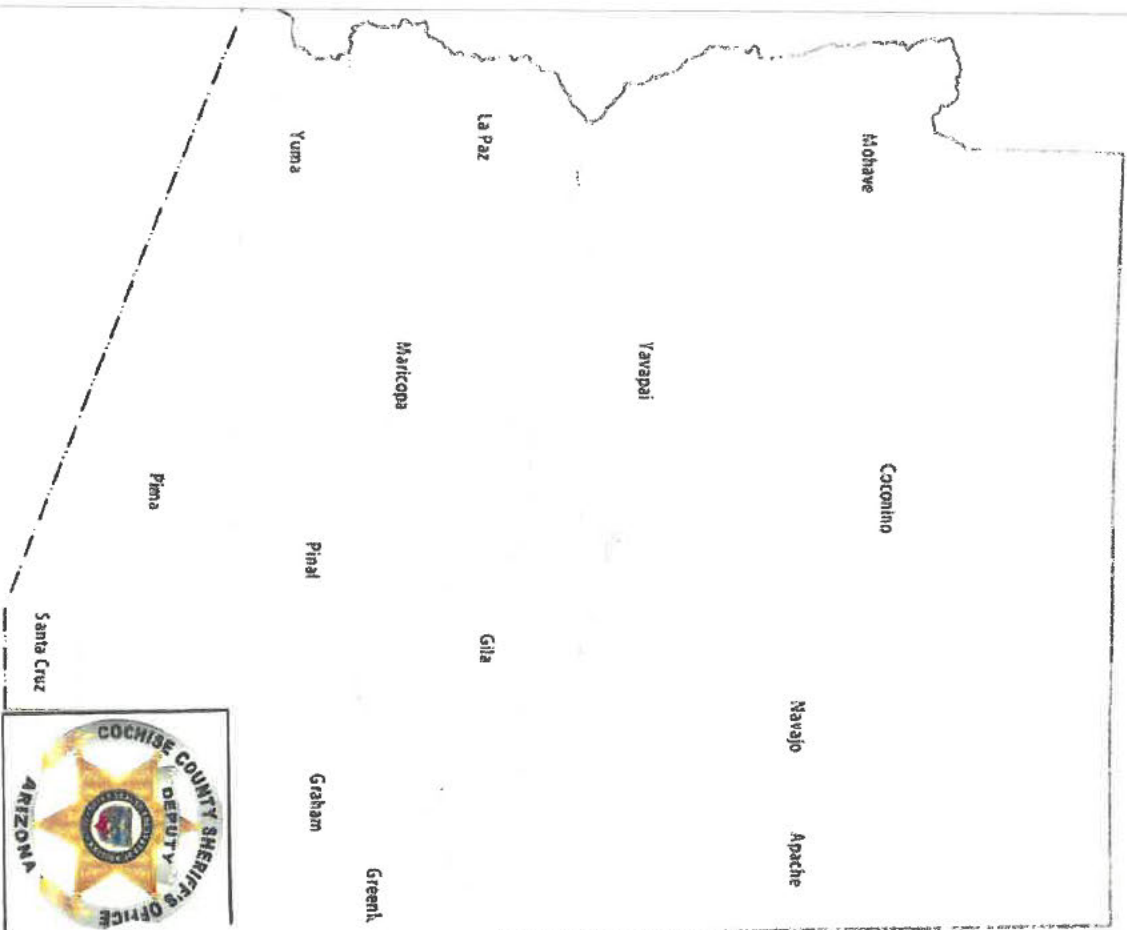




Arizona; leading the way in between-port entries.

- In 2022, of the 561,553 migrants who were apprehended while illegally entering the United States between ports of entry, 44.87% or 251,954 migrants were apprehended within the Tucson Sector.





Cochise County:

- Is the 38th largest county in the United States.
- Encompasses 6300 square miles.
- Shares 83 miles of border fence with Sonora Mexico.
- Has a population of 126,000.
- C.C.S.O. has 99 Sworn Deputy Positions.

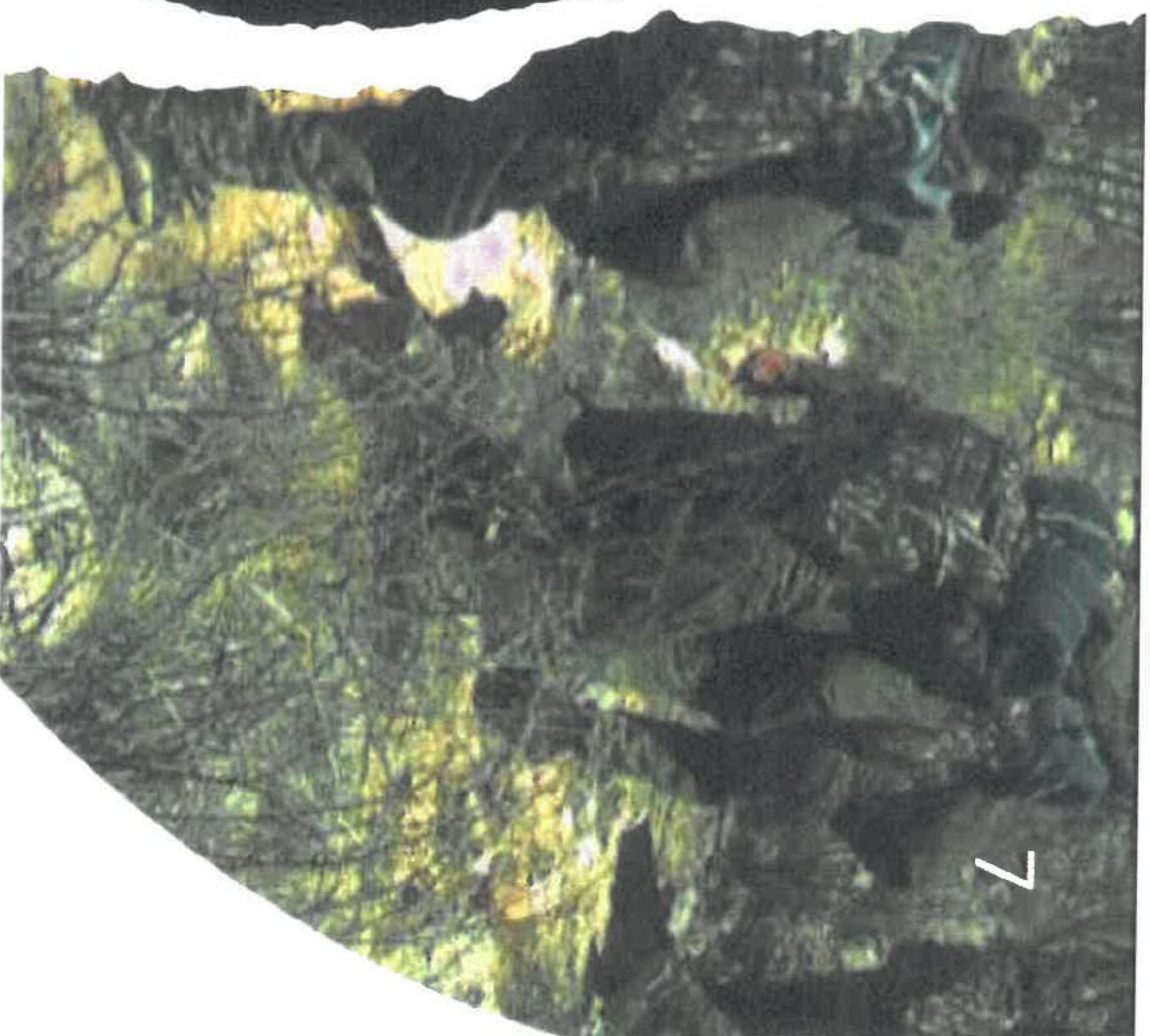
In 2022, C.C.S.O.:

- Has experienced 40% increase in operational tempo as a direct result of the border crisis.
- Booked 1578 people into the C.C.S.O. Jail for border related felonious offenses; 1500 were U.S. Citizens.
- Detained **3049** undocumented aliens.
- Investigated 601 border related crimes where people were feloniously victimized.



Also, in 2022, C.C.S.O.:

- Detected 66,620 undocumented aliens on S.A.B.R.E. digital cameras.
- Of those 66,620, coordinated the physical apprehension of 25,500.
- Investigated 1,306 human smuggling events.
- Investigated smuggling incidents where 882 smugglers were prosecuted.



Report by Scripps National News

Teens are promised a quick
cash for Human Smuggling.



ns promised quick cash through social media for human smuggling

Border Crisis: Multi-Phased Problem.

- Migrants cross the border into Cochise County in head-to-toe camouflage. S.A.B.R.E. Cameras deployed detect 10-15 migrants per hour seven days a week.
- Methods of entry include crawling over the 31-foot border wall or traversing rough mountainous terrain where no wall exists.
- Migrants then use cellular telephones to communicate with facilitators using social media platforms to arrange transport.



XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

The Recruitment:

- Facilitators use social media platforms to recruit smugglers as young as 12 years old.
- Nearly 1500 smugglers come into Cochise County a month to smuggle migrants from Cochise County.



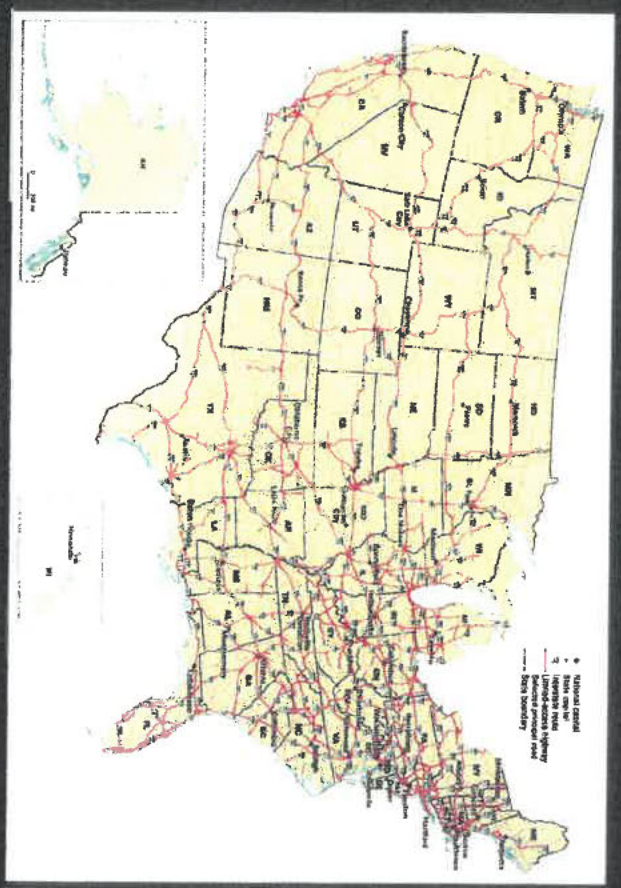


THE PICK-UP



11

D.T.O.s use I-10, I-40, and U.S. 60 to smuggle contraband east of Arizona.



THE PURSUITS:

- Smugglers are incentivized to flee from law enforcement at all costs.
- Cochise County Law Enforcement are involved in an estimated 2 to 10 failure to yield incidents per day.
- In 2022, CCSO arrested 232 people for failure to yield.



The Border Crisis: Death and Destruction

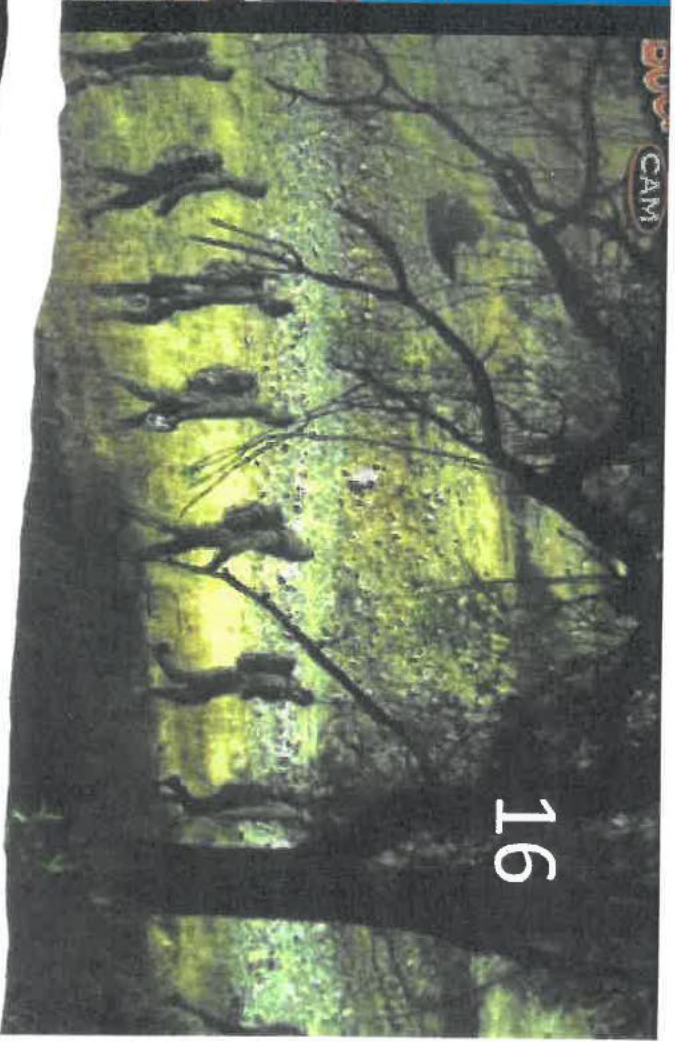
- 9 people died between October 30, 2021, and December 31, 2022, from smuggling related traffic collisions.
- Between March 01, 2022, and December 31, 2022, 601 people were feloniously victimized from smuggling related pursuits.





Not Nameless Victims: Wanda Sitoski

- 16-year-old smuggler, Felix Mendez came to Cochise County to exploit human beings. Failed to stop for Law enforcement even after pursuit was terminated.
- Felix continued traveling in excess of 80 mph in 55 mph zone without being perused.
- Ran red light at over 80 mph, split Wanda's car in half, killing her in a fiery inferno.

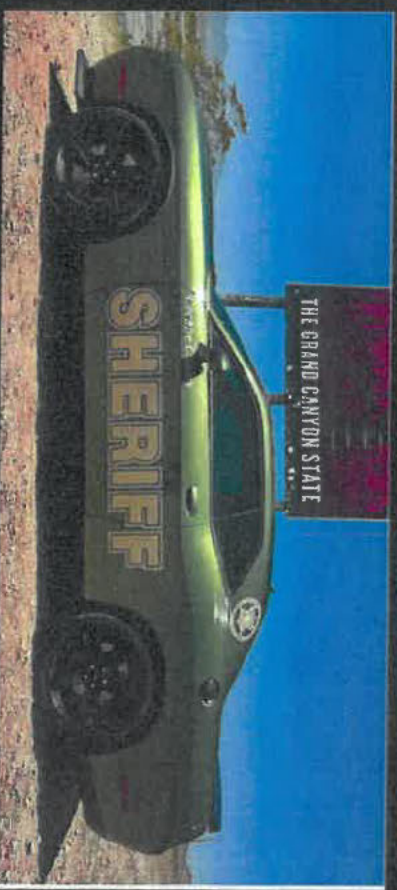


The Border Crisis: Crisis varies by region.

- Topleft, YUMA, Arizona.
- Bottom right, Cochise County, Arizona.

What is C.C.S.O. Doing in response?

- Created and Implemented S.A.B.R.E.
- Created and Implemented C.I.T.
- Received funding for GERONIMO.
- Received funding for Border Operations Center.
- Received 1.9 Million dollars to purchase 15 Pursuit Termination Vehicles.
- Received 7.3 million dollars to offset incarceration costs of suspects booked into CCSO Custody for having committed a violation of Arizona Law with a border nexus.





COCHISE COUNTY

S.A.B.R.E

- In 2017, CCSO created the Southeastern Arizona Border Regional Enforcement Team.
- Program has extended to 1200 Buckeye Game Trail Cameras from throughout smuggling corridors in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Innovative technology to transfer images directly into border operations center.

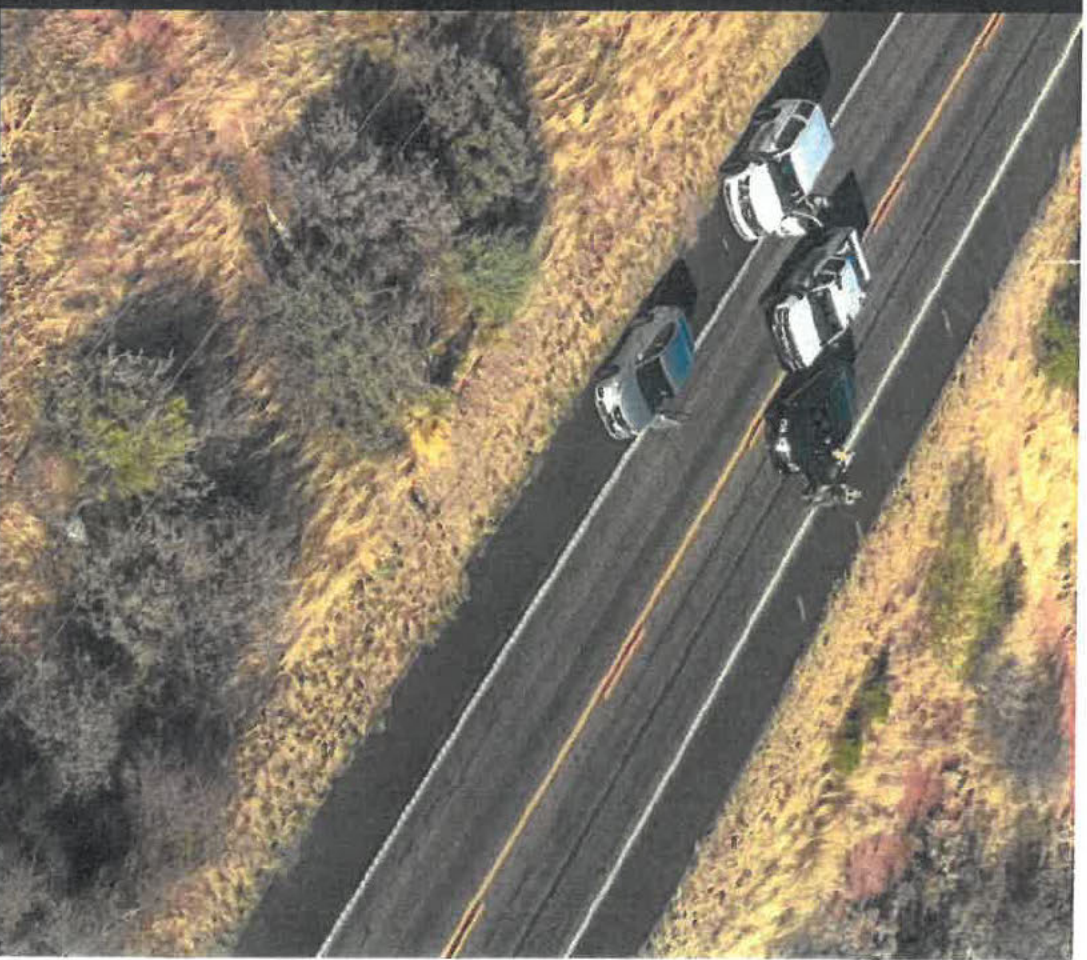
S.A.B.R.E.

- Comprised of 34 positions.
- Grant funded for five years.
- Provides intelligence, digital surveillance assets, and personnel to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and beyond.



C.C.S.O. Criminal Interdiction Team.

- Five full time Interdiction Deputies.
 - One Sergeant.
 - 100 % grant funded for four years.
 - Provides investigative support to all law enforcement agencies in Cochise County.
-



COCHISE COUNTY BORDER OPERATIONS CENTER.

- Received funding to purchase 5-million-dollar building at zero cost to Cochise County taxpayer.
- Provides collaborative workshop where Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies work together to tackle the Border Crisis.





22

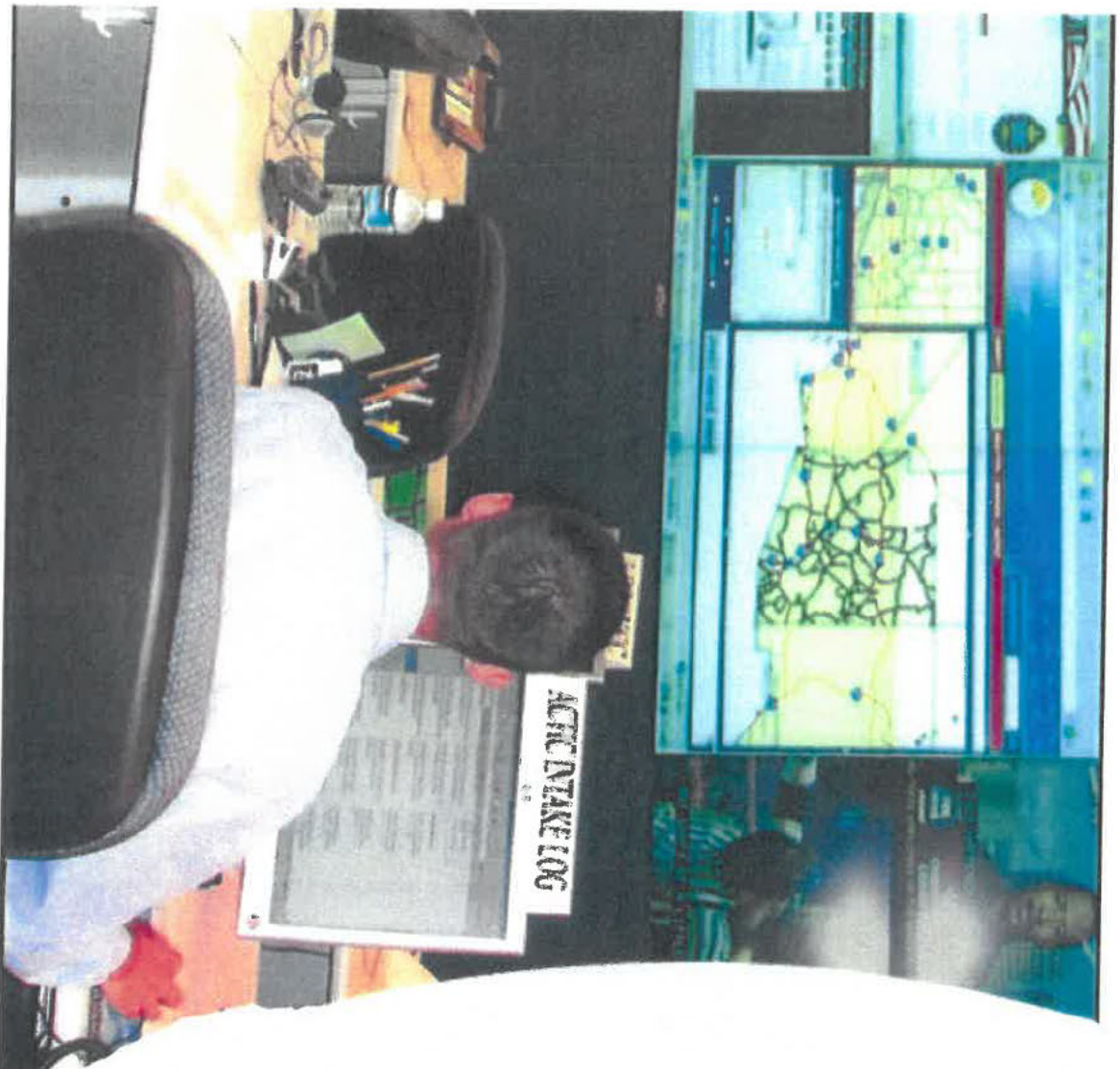
GERONIMO

- Received funding to provide Law Enforcement Helicopter 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Fully funded for a period of five years.
- Aircraft available to all first responders in Cochise County.



Pursuit Termination Vehicles

- Received funding to purchase 15 ¾ ton, 4x4, Four Door, Short Bed Trucks outfitted with customized bumpers and suspension.
- Available to all Cochise County Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Funding included robust defensive driving program for all Cochise County Law Enforcement Agencies.



Current projects.

- Acquire funding to increase amount of SABRE support and Buckeye cameras to New Mexico Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Acquire funding to create a robust multi-state intelligence sharing network.
- Acquire investigative tools needed to process the thousands of smugglers' cellular telephones seized by Cochise County Law Enforcement.



January 5, 2024

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Joe Biden,

As the mayors of Cochise County, located along the US-Mexico border in Arizona, we are writing to urgently highlight the crisis happening at the southern border of our country.

Over the past few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in illegal border crossings, load car chases and criminal activity associated with it. Our communities and law enforcement agencies are being overwhelmed by the sheer volume of migrants illegally entering our country. As those charged with ensuring public safety, we can no longer sit by as this crisis escalates.

Human and drug smugglers are exploiting the porous border to transport people and narcotics. This has led to more crime, violence, and tragic deaths in our communities. Our hospitals are strained with having to provide care for sick migrants. Local nonprofits and faith-based organizations are overwhelmed trying to provide food, shelter, and other services to the influx of migrants.

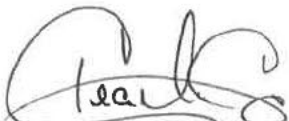
Our law enforcement officers are burning out responding to speeding load cars in our county around the clock. We do not have the resources or personnel to handle this sustained surge in illegal immigration. We need help from the federal government immediately.

We desperately need more funding from the federal government to hire additional officers, support staff, and resources to aid local enforcement at the border. We cannot continue operating at this pace with our limited budgets. Our officers are doing the critical work of securing our nation's border, often putting their lives at risk. They deserve the proper staffing, equipment, and resources to perform their duties safely and effectively.


In addition to more personnel, we also need advanced technology like sensors, cameras, drones, and other surveillance tools to help monitor remote areas of the border. Federal grants for proper training are also critical as our officers regularly encounter dangerous criminals and cartel activity.

We urge you to make securing the US border and supporting local law enforcement a top priority. Our communities depend on it. We are happy to work with you on legislation and funding allocations to address these needs. However, action must be taken quickly before the situation deteriorates further. We urge you to take meaningful action to secure our southern border, enforce our nation's immigration laws, and provide more support to border communities like ours that are disproportionately impacted by this crisis. We stand ready to work with you to find solutions. But we can no longer wait as the situation worsens daily.


Most respectfully,




Mayor Clea McCaa
City of Sierra Vista



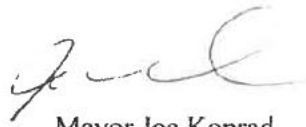
Mayor Ken Budge
City of Bisbee




Mayor Donald Huish
City of Douglas



Mayor Johann Wallace
Town of Huachuca City



Mayor Joe Konrad
City of Benson



Mayor Mike Laws
City of Willcox



Mayor Dustin Escapule
City of Tombstone

S

CC:
Vice President Kamala Harris
The Honorable Mike Johnson
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
The Honorable Mark Kelly
The Honorable Juan Ciscomani
Governor Katie Hobbs
Sheriff Mark Dannels



Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

December 7, 2023

Honorable President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As leaders of the state of Arizona, our top priority is and has always been the safety and welfare of our citizens. We have repeatedly denounced the crisis at our southern border and stated what should be obvious: the smuggling of illegal drugs, weapons, and human beings poses a direct threat to our communities and innocent Americans.

Yet your administration has reacted to this humanitarian crisis—largely one of your administration's own making—with complete inaction, neglect, and ineffective immigration policies. Border wall materials that could have been used to keep our communities safe have instead sat in the southwest desert for years. Encounters at the Southwest border in FY2023 increased over 40% since FY2021.

As the President of our nation, you should be as alarmed as we are that in the past year, 169 migrants on the terrorist watch list tried to cross the southern border into our country. But imagine how many have crossed and not been caught by law enforcement. And, in the same time period, more than 24,000 Chinese nationals were apprehended crossing into the United States from Mexico, as the world's tensions with communist China intensify. Looking at those crossing the border in droves, they are largely military-aged men, not families in search of a better life as Democrats continually claim. Your open-border approach to immigration is a national threat that will have disastrous impacts on the entire country.

Border states in particular are significantly harmed by your administration's failed policies every day. Our law enforcement agencies at the border are overextended. Healthcare providers in border communities are overworked to such an extent that they are struggling to provide essential services to the residents of their community in need of care.

Your decision to close the Lukeville Port of Entry is just the latest in a long stream of irresponsible policies from your administration that fail to keep Arizona citizens, and all Americans, safe from criminal activity at the border. The closure has caused an immediate

collapse of economic activity and legal movement through that critical port of entry. Arizonans along the way to Lukeville will needlessly suffer as businesses shutter in communities such as Gila Bend, Ajo, and Why. Additionally, your proposed alternative routes to cross the border force Arizonans and Mexican nationals to travel through known cartel corridors, putting the lives of Americans at risk.

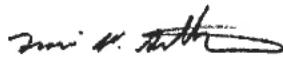
The decision to close the Lukeville Port of Entry as a solution to the crisis you created is unacceptable and must be reversed immediately. It is no secret why the border is overwhelmed. Your anti-American open-border policy sent a message to the world: that there will be no consequences for illegal immigration. The real solution is simple. Reverse your policy and put a halt to the wide-open door for so-called "asylum-seekers."

After years of being on the front lines of the border disaster, the State of Arizona has picked up the slack of an impotent federal government to protect our citizens. We have funded initiatives to combat human trafficking and illegal entry into the United States as well as border infrastructure, local prosecution efforts, and other necessary activities to safeguard citizens. We have demanded that the Arizona Governor and the Arizona Attorney General take executive action and hold you accountable in court to protect Arizona's citizens and its sovereignty. Please make no mistake, Republican leaders in this state will continue to fight for the safety of our citizens and a humane and orderly border. We will hold you accountable for your refusal to protect this nation and its people.

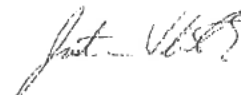
Sincerely,
Members of the Arizona House Republican Caucus



Ben Toma
Representative, LD27
Speaker



Travis Grantham
Representative, LD14
Speaker Pro Tempore



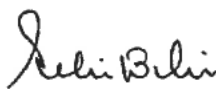
Justin Wilmeth
Representative, LD2



Matt Gress
Representative, LD4



Leo Biasiucci
Representative, LD30
Majority Leader



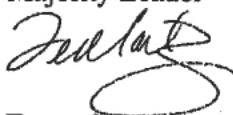
Selina Bliss
Representative, LD1



Joseph Chaplik
Representative, LD3



David L. Cook
Representative, LD7



Teresa Martínez
Representative, LD16
Majority Whip



Quang H. Nguyen
Representative, LD1



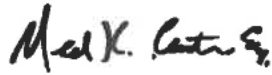
Alexander Kolodin
Representative, LD3



David Marshall, Sr.
Representative, LD7



Barbara Parker
Representative, LD10



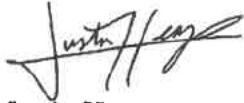
Neal Carter
Representative, LD 15



Michele Peña
Representative, LD23



David Livingston
Representative, LD28



Justin Heap
Representative, LD10



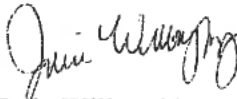
Cory McGarr
Representative, LD17



Michael Carbone
Representative, LD25



Austin Smith
Representative, LD29



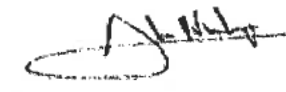
Julie Willoughby
Representative, LD13



Rachel Jones
Representative, LD17



Timothy M. Dunn
Representative, LD25



Steve Montenegro
Representative, LD29



Laurin Hendrix
Representative, LD14



Gail Griffin
Representative, LD19



Kevin Payne
Representative, LD27



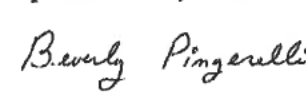
John Gillette
Representative, LD30



Jaqueline Parker
Representative, LD15



Lupe Diaz
Representative, LD19



Beverly Pingerelli
Representative, LD28



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2023

Nation's Sheriffs Call for Action at the Border Due to Heightened Threat Picture
The American Sheriff Alliance continues to call out cartel activity and lack of reinforcements at the border

San Diego, California – The American Sheriff Alliance met in San Diego this week to discuss the continued pressure and strain on resources due to the lack of border enforcement throughout the United States, including the alarming statistics of encounters with individuals found to be on the Terrorist Watch List, also known as the Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSDS). Further, the diversity of the countries of origin for migrant encounters is also concerning, particularly with those who have strained diplomatic relations with the U.S. The driving forces can be traced back to the lack of border security as well as the Sinaloa Cartel run by Ismael Zambada Garcia (*"El Mayo"*) and Jalisco New Generation Cartel run by Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes (*"El Mencho"*).

Along the southwest border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) TSDS encounters between ports of entry of non-U.S. citizens have continually risen over the past six years. The following are the number of TSDS encounters according to CBP: 2017 – 2 encounters, 2018 – 6 encounters, 2019 – 0 encounters, 2020 – 3 encounters, 2021 – 15 encounters, 2022 – 98 encounters, and 2023 YTD – 151 encounters. Since 2021, this represents a 906% increase in TSDS encounters; there are still three months left in 2023.

In addition to these alarming rates of TSDS encounters, other criminal statistics continue to rise. The number of arrests of individuals with criminal convictions or those wanted by law enforcement by noncitizens has increased exponentially from 6,562 encounters in 2021 to 16,992 in 2022, and year to date in 2023, there have been 18,586 encounters, which marks a 183% increase since 2021 with again three months left this year.

The statistics for TSDS encounters and those with criminal convictions or who are wanted by law enforcement reflect only those who have encountered authorities. It is unknown how many concerning individuals have entered the United States who have yet to be accounted for. CBP reported that they have estimated a total of 600,000 got-a-ways this year, but there is no way of knowing the exact numbers. These alarming statistics are extremely concerning to the Alliance, and there are major homeland security concerns with these individuals especially, with the lack of information and vetting as to their intentions, criminal histories, or connections to our adversaries worldwide.

Further, the strain on local resources both for border sheriffs and law enforcement across the country who do not have the adequate staffing or funding to respond to this influx of migrants is troubling. The continued effect on communities across the country who are left to deal with violent criminals, illicit narcotics and the increase in overall criminal activity is straining public safety resources. To say nothing of the pressure felt on community services including housing, medical services, and the judicial system.

"When the number of people dying from drug poisonings is equivalent to a 737-airplane crashing each day, and the number of migrants that we are aware of coming across the border could fill the

Caesars Superdome in New Orleans weekly, we have to sound the alarm,” said Sheriff Greg Champagne of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA). “If a plane crashed daily, there would be immediate action taken, and yet instead of seeing numbers decrease, we continue to set records for those who are dying from illicit narcotics mostly originating from the drug cartels in Mexico.”

“Communities across the United States, whether or not they are located near a southern, northern, or maritime border, are being affected by the lack of resources available to address the overwhelming challenges in stopping the volume of violent criminals and illicit narcotics flowing into our country at the hands of the cartels,” stated Major County Sheriffs of America Executive Director Megan Noland. “The implications to the nation’s homeland security threat picture continues to expand as migrant flows and cartel activity continue to increase with no relief in sight. Terrorists and foreign bad actors are monitoring the current weak border policies, and they will absolutely exploit these failings given the opportunity.”

Sheriff Leon Wilmot of Yuma County, Arizona and a Western States Sheriffs’ Association member stated, “The pressure on law enforcement at the local level is unsustainable with the continued daily increases at the southern ports of entry. With the sustained unrelenting flow of migrants coming from all over the world and the limited background checks and vetting process, it is concerning who is being released into the interior. The cartels are actively promoting the weak border policies through social media networks, and it is clear they have been, sadly, very successful in their mission.”

“While we know that these pressures are affecting U.S. borders from all sides, the southern border is clearly the center of concern when we see migrants from countries across the world enter our country into the Southwest Border,” said Sheriff Eddie Guerra of Hidalgo County, Texas, and President of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs’ Coalition. “CBP has reported that migrant encounters at the southwest border cover 180 international countries – many who are adversaries with the United States, which should be concerning to every American citizen.”

Sheriff Tom Schmerber of Maverick County, Texas, and President of the Texas Border Sheriff’s Coalition noted, “While federal, state, and local law enforcement are doing everything they can to keep their local communities secure and ensure humane conditions for migrants who are truly seeking asylum, there is no doubt that the asylum system is being abused and the traditional avenues are overwhelmed to keep up requests forcing the release of these individuals without any accountability. El Mencho, El Mayo, and other troubling cartel criminals will continue to exploit these easy loopholes without action from our elected officials.

The American Sheriff Alliance encourages elected officials at every level of government to speak out and draw attention to the need of making proper reforms to these extreme challenges. This includes actions needed to be taken by the White House Administration as well as Congress to ensure our borders are secure. With hundreds of violent criminals entering communities every day around the country as well as the flow of illicit narcotics poisoning our citizens, the Alliance is demanding the rule of law in this country be followed and that all available sanctions and statutes be used to help alleviate the pressure the men and women of law enforcement are facing during this unprecedented period in our nation’s history. With a potential government shutdown on the horizon where staff will deal with this crisis unpaid, the environment is ripe for the perfect storm with American citizens suffering the consequences. Further, the Alliance is asking for the public’s support to demand the necessary reforms.

###

Media Contacts:

National Sheriffs' Association

Patrick Royal, PIO
patrickroyal@sheriffs.org

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Corey Helton, President
chelton@leacounty.net

Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

(Ret.) Sheriff Clint McDonald, Executive Director
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

Major County Sheriffs of America

Megan Noland, Executive Director
mnoland@mcsheriffs.com

Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition

(Ret.) Sheriff Clint McDonald, Executive Director
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This Alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America at the federal, state, and local levels.



Multi-Agency Public Safety Announcement

September 15, 2023

Addressing the Border Crisis: A Two-Fold Challenge

During the last two years, every month, an estimated 1,500 smugglers come to Cochise County to transport migrants who have illegally entered the United States from Cochise County to Phoenix, Arizona. This has resulted in hundreds of pursuits, car crashes, people being criminally victimized, and many citizens and migrants being killed.



On September 13, 2023, the United States Border Patrol advised the Cochise County Sheriff's Office they were directed to release migrants who had been processed into the streets of Douglas and Bisbee. Understandably, Cochise County Residents expressed heightened concern. It has come to the attention of community leaders that misinformation is being circulated, and certain facts require clarification. This border crisis consists of two very distinct, yet interconnected crises, a **humanitarian crisis** and a **crisis of drug and human smuggling**.



Humanitarian Crisis

In May of 2023, community leaders were informed that with the lifting of Title 42, Border Patrol Stations within Cochise County would be receiving asylum-seeking migrants from other Border Patrol Stations. Due to various factors, Cochise County had historically not seen many asylum-seeking migrants self-admit at the Douglas and Naco port of entries. However, other Ports of Entry across the Southwest Border have been overwhelmed with hundreds of migrants legally seeking asylum. Those Border Patrol Stations were unable to house or process those migrants and the Department of Homeland Security began shipping those migrants from other Border Patrol Stations to the Naco and Douglas Border Patrol Stations to be processed.



From May 2023, until September 12, 2023, asylum-seeking migrants were released from Cochise County Border Patrol Stations at predetermined times allowing coordination for immediate transport out of Cochise County. Migrants received no further assistance from the federal government. To address this issue, local community leaders coordinated with partners from the State of Arizona, Pima County, and various non-profit and non-governmental entities to transport those migrants from Cochise County to shelters in Tucson, Phoenix, and beyond. It is important to note once these migrants were "Processed," they were given a hearing date and are expected to appear to assess their asylum status. Despite prompt scheduling, the actual hearing date may be years away. Therefore, migrants have lawful status in the United States while their asylum claim is pending.



On September 13, 2023, Border Patrol Leadership advised the number of asylum-seeking migrants being transferred into their facilities had exceeded capacity and they could no longer schedule the drop-offs at the bus sites at predetermined times. Migrants must be released sporadically throughout the day depending on migrant population. A total of 72 migrants were released into Douglas and Bisbee on September 13th. While awaiting for prearranged transport out of Cochise County, migrants released in Douglas were graciously provided shelter from the elements, by a local church. The Migrants released in Bisbee waited in a parking lot for transportation. On September 14, 116 migrants were released into Bisbee and Douglas; most were transported from the area to humanitarian shelters outside of Cochise County.

A majority of this migrant group, speak languages other than English or Spanish and have no shelter or resources. This makes it more difficult for law enforcement and community partners to provide assistance. They are lawfully in the United States, after arriving at the border, and making immediate contact with Customs and Border Patrol Officials. They have adhered to the guidelines outlined by the federal government for seeking asylum. These asylum-seeking migrants are **not** the migrants who have illegally entered the United States; they have committed no crimes. The Federal government is releasing these asylum-seeking migrants, many of which are families, accompanied with children. Unfortunately they are being released by the federal government into a rural community with no resources to help them.

Crisis of drug and human smuggling

Simultaneously, Arizona leads the nation in both drug and human smuggling. 23.37% of all fentanyl seized in the entire United States in 2022, was seized in either Cochise or Santa Cruz Counties. In 2022, 44.87% of all migrants who illegally entered the United States between ports of entry, were apprehended in the Tucson Sector of the United States Border Patrol. As Border Patrol Agents are pulled from the Tucson Sector to address the humanitarian crisis of thousands of asylum-seeking migrants who self-admit at ports of entry across the Southwest Border, community leaders expect the number of migrants who **illegally** enter the country between ports of entry to continue rising. This means, criminal organizations will continue to recruit people from across the United States (ages 12-72) to smuggle drugs and humans from Cochise County to Phoenix.

It is worth noting those who are apprehended while illegally entering the United States (or being smuggled in a vehicle after not checking in at a port of entry) are **not** the migrants being released into our communities. Most, if not all of the migrants who enter our country illegally are expelled. For more information about the processing of migrants, reach out to your local Border Patrol Station.





Unity in Action

The Law Enforcement in Cochise County remains collectively committed to the public safety of our citizens. Your support is deeply appreciated as we navigate addressing these multifaceted issues impacting our community. We encourage all residents to stay informed, engaged, and supportive of the multi-agency efforts aimed at comprehensively addressing the border crisis.

We are requesting community support. Please:

1. Contact your congressional representatives, senators, and federal government representatives and alert them of the humanitarian crisis within the communities they represent. Ask that they take action to provide resources and relief to our border community.
2. If you see something, say something. If you witness a criminal or suspicious act, please contact SEACOM immediately at 911 or (520)803-3550.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these challenging times. Together, we can make a difference and ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2023

Nation's Sheriffs Call for the Eradication of Drug Cartels, Starting with the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels

The American Sheriff Alliance implores for action to stop the flow of illicit narcotics into the United States by Mexican Cartels

(Washington, DC) – The American Sheriff Alliance met in Washington, DC, last week to discuss the continued rise in overdose deaths and violence plaguing their jurisdictions in all areas of the country. These troubling patterns can all be traced to two main drivers of illicit narcotics into the United States – the Mexican Sinaloa and the Jalisco New Generation Cartels, both Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) which are headquartered south of the United States border with Mexico.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists killed 2,977 innocent people and our nation was outraged. America's response included declaring a war on terrorism and bringing justice to the victims of this unthinkable tragedy by holding terrorists and terrorist countries accountable.

Last year, on December 14, 2022, the White House issued a statement regarding the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) release of provisional drug overdose death data for the 12-month period ending in August 2022. Over 107,000 overdose deaths were recorded in this one-year period, with most attributed to illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine, often in combination with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin. Despite the incredible number of deaths, which can be directly attributed to the trafficking of illegal narcotics into the United States by the Mexican Cartels there has been little call to action or change in foreign policy to address this alarming issue. This crisis has caused 35 more times the amount of death to American citizens in a one-year period than was inflicted upon the U.S. on September 11th by Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden.

The Mexican drug cartels, as well-documented in the successful prosecution of Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera, also known as El Chapo, operate sophisticated crime operations fueled by fear, terror, intimidation, extortion, and murder. These criminal organizations are directly responsible for the increases in deaths, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and unprecedented violence occurring in cities and counties across our nation. These cartels and their operatives are operating with disastrous effects not just on our southern border, but their influence can also be felt across our northern border and maritime borders as they seek to exploit all avenues to deliver lethal narcotics and violent criminals into our communities.

Sheriff Greg Champagne, of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) stated, "We can no longer allow these murderers to terrorize our communities. We need every American to join us in demanding our government focus on this crisis and take whatever actions are necessary to eliminate these criminal networks and operations."

"This is not a partisan issue. This is a life-and-death issue," said Sheriff Bill Brown, of Santa Barbara County, California, and Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). "Two criminal organizations, the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels, operate in Mexico with near impunity, producing and trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs that are killing more than 100,000 Americans every year. America's sheriffs are calling for meaningful change in our nation's

foreign policy. The federal government must put greater pressure on the Mexican government to take aggressive action to disrupt and destroy these unlawful cartels. The current situation is intolerable and cannot stand."

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, of Grand County, Colorado, and President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) said, "These cartels are operating in every part of our nation. It's not an urban, suburban, or rural issue. These massive, well-financed criminal enterprises kill, enslave, and destroy families and communities. We need the people of the United States to demand, that our government commit the necessary resources to eliminate these organizations here and abroad as they did following the horrific events of 9/11.

"This is not an immigration issue; this is a public safety and public health issue. It's not just the violence and drugs, it's the sexual assaults, human trafficking, enslavement, and fear and terror that are destroying neighborhoods here in the United States," stated Sheriff Eddie Guerra, of Hidalgo County, Texas, and Chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition (SWBSC). "We are asking every person who knows someone who has died or family who has suffered at the hands of these criminal organizations, to make their voices heard with their federal, state, and local elected officials who have the power to create the necessary change."

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas, of Zavala County, Texas, and Chairman of the Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition (TBSC) said, "Americans can save lives by calling upon the President of the United States, U.S. Senators, and representatives in Congress and demanding immediate, comprehensive action to identify and destroy these criminal operations, wherever they may exist. Until our elected officials stand up to fight this epidemic sweeping the nation, we will continue to set records related to the number of our loved ones we continue to lose each year at the hand of these violent cartels."

The American Sheriff Alliance is imploring the public to demand their elected officials use every available sanction and accountability tools at their disposal in combating the atrocities committed against our country and its citizens by the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels. Without such action, these dangerous cartels will continue to destroy the very fabric of our families and communities.

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Western States Sheriffs' Association
Sheriff Brett Schroetlin
bschroetlin@co.grand.co.us

Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition
Sheriff Clint McDonald
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition
Sheriff Clint McDonald
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform in order to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America.



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Jonathan F. Thompson
Executive Director and CEO

August 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Major County Sheriffs of America, Western States Sheriffs' Association, and the Southwest and Texas Border Sheriffs Coalitions, I wish to invite you to join our leadership Summit on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 through Thursday, September 15, 2022 in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The Summit will be a closed meeting where the leaders of these respective groups will convene to discuss the myriad of issues crucial to our nation's public safety. Given the gravity and breadth of issues confronting our members, we would be honored to have you join any portion of the frank, but off-the-record, discussions.

For decades you have seen the challenges law enforcement faces on a daily basis. I know you will find this an excellent opportunity to talk directly with these 50 leaders about your vision for protecting their communities and your efforts to better fund local law enforcement.

The Office of Sheriff is an important and unique tradition in America's law enforcement history. As you know, Sheriffs, with few exceptions, are elected officials who serve as the chief law enforcement officer in their respective jurisdictions. Our members represent 100% of the U.S. population and manage 87% of the nation's jails. The 3,080 sheriffs serve demographically and geographically diverse communities; however, the challenges they face collectively are becoming issues of paramount concern to the nation.

Please note, this event would require all security costs be assumed by The Secret Service and the White House.

I thank you for your consideration of this invitation and, in advance, for your prompt reply. Finally, for more information and logistical details about the conference, your staff can contact NSA's Director of Government Affairs, Loren Hoekstra, at (703) 946-0578 or lhoekstra@sheriffs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jonathan F. Thompson
Executive Director and CEO

State of Arizona



Legislative Proclamation

DENOUNCING THE CURRENT CRISIS WITH RESPECT TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Whereas, the United States-Mexico border consists of 1,954 miles of varied terrain, including deserts, rugged mountainous areas, forests and coastal areas; and

Whereas, officially established in 1924 by an act of Congress in response to increasing illegal immigration, the United States Border Patrol has primary responsibility for securing the border between ports of entry; and Whereas, Border Patrol agents patrol international land borders and waterways to detect and prevent the illegal trafficking of people, narcotics, and contraband into the United States; and

Whereas, on March 7, 2022, the Western States Sheriffs' Association unanimously passed Resolution 22-1, which outlines the alarming issues facing our nation due to the unchecked illegal immigration crises at our southern border; and

Whereas, the southern border of the United States is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of people attempting to enter the country illegally, with the past fiscal year seeing a 379% increase of border encounters as compared to the previous fiscal year. These 1.7 million individuals represent 164 countries, including countries with suspected terrorist ties, and 63% of them are from countries other than Mexico; and

Whereas, there has likewise been a major increase in apprehensions, expulsions and "gotaways" on the southwest border, with one million encounters and 300,000 getaways between October 1, 2021, and April 11, 2022; and

Whereas, in the past fiscal year, the number of illegal drugs seized has skyrocketed, including 10,000 pounds of fentanyl, 180,000 pounds of methamphetamine, 86,000 pounds of cocaine, 5,000 pounds of heroin and 311,000 pounds of marijuana. Likewise, criminal activity has soared, with law enforcement documenting 60 homicides, 1,178 assaults, 2,138 drug-related or drug trafficking arrests, 825 burglaries, 1,629 DUIs, 336 weapons arrests and 488 sexual assaults; and

Whereas, in a new effort to boost their operations, criminal cartels are using social media platforms as a recruiting tool for human smuggling. Drivers are lured by social media posts promising payment of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for every migrant a person can transport by vehicle to Tucson or Phoenix. Known as "load-car drivers," these individuals are mainly young people, some as young as fourteen years old, who are enticed to pick up undocumented migrants at the border and ferry them to their destinations in exchange for money. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has called on four social media giants to better monitor their platforms and ban these recruitment posts on their sites; and

Whereas, for individuals who are smuggled into the United States by Mexican and South American cartels, their arrival marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking to pay back the criminal cartels to which they are indebted; and

Whereas, an estimated 8% of the 1.7 million encounters last fiscal year were unaccompanied minors; and

Whereas, tragically, the prior year saw 162 migrant deaths in Southern Arizona; and

Whereas, an uncontrolled border is a security and humanitarian crisis, and the increased violence and the smuggling of illegal drugs, weapons and human beings poses a direct threat to our communities and innocent Americans; and
Whereas, the current administration has halted construction of a southern border wall, and there are numerous unfinished sections in Arizona; and

Whereas, this administration is not working collaboratively or in good faith with local law enforcement agencies and other state leaders to address the serious issues related to the border; and

Whereas, in April 2021, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency at Arizona's southern border; and

Whereas, in February 2022, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich issued a legal opinion determining that the current crisis at Arizona's southern border with the violence and lawlessness of cartels and gangs legally qualifies as an "invasion" under the United States Constitution.

Therefore, Representative Gail Griffin and the following members of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona denounce the continued breach of our nation's southern border and support safe communities, immediate, decisive action to secure the border and alleviate the security and humanitarian crises associated with illegal immigration.

Dated this 25th day of May 2022



Gail Griffin

Representative Gail Griffin

Rusty Bowers

Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers

Ben Toma

Majority Leader Ben Toma

Leo Biasiucci

Majority Whip Leo Biasiucci

Travis Grantham

Speaker Pro Tempore Travis Grantham

Brenda Barton

Representative Brenda Barton

Walter Blackman

Representative Walter Blackman

Shawnna Bolick

Representative Shawnna Bolick

Judy Burges

Representative Judy Burges

Frank Carroll

Representative Frank Carroll

Neal Carter

Representative Neal Carter

Joseph Chaplik

Representative Joseph Chaplik

Regina Cobb

Representative Regina Cobb

David Cook

Representative David Cook

Lupe Diaz

Representative Lupe Diaz

Tim Dunn

Representative Tim Dunn

John Fillmore

Representative John Fillmore

Mark Finchem

Representative Mark Finchem

Jake Hoffman

Representative Jake Hoffman

Joel John

Representative Joel John

Steve Kaiser

Representative Steve Kaiser

John Kavanagh

Representative John Kavanagh

Teresa Martinez

Representative Teresa Martinez

Quang Nguyen

Representative Quang Nguyen

Joanne Osborne

Representative Joanne Osborne

Jacqueline Parker

Representative Jacqueline Parker

Kevin Payne

Representative Kevin Payne

Beverly Pingerelli

Representative Beverly Pingerelli

Michelle Udall

Representative Michelle Udall

Jeff Weninger

Representative Jeff Weninger

Justin Wilmeth

Representative Justin Wilmeth



ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

MARK DANNELS, COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
MARK LAMB, PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF, VICE PRESIDENT

THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 2022 - 01 ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION EXPRESSES NO CONFIDENCE IN VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS

WHEREAS; the Arizona Sheriffs Association (ASA) is an organization comprised of elected county sheriffs who have sworn to maintain the public trust through open, honest, and ethical administration of their respective offices and exercising integrity and professionalism in the use of their constitutional powers and authority; and

WHEREAS; Arizona's Sheriffs work together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Yet, many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States; and

WHEREAS; this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated officers and agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation; and

WHEREAS; today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years including over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering and result in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable; and

WHEREAS; Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under oath to protect the rule of law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task; and

WHEREAS; Arizona's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States as massive amounts of drugs are moving across interstate highways and small rural roads throughout the nation. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an



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alarming rate every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; after witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, the Arizona Sheriff's Association, must emphatically state our position of having no confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

FURTHERMORE; we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along its borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border. Finally, a decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of national security" for this nation, at this time, this is it. Arizona's Sheriffs, and specifically our border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

Signed the 29th day of April 2022

Mark Dannels
President Arizona Sheriff's Association
Cochise County Sheriff

Mark Lamb
Vice-President Arizona Sheriff's Association
Pinal County Sheriff



Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849

Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

Whereas, the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition represents Sheriffs from 4 states whose counties are within 25 miles of the Southern Border or contain a permanent federal checkpoint,

Our membership works together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

Whereas, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

Whereas, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

Whereas, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

Clint McDonald
Executive Director

2020-2022
SWBSC Officers

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas
Chairman
Zavala County, TX

Sheriff Eddie Guerra
1st Vice Chairman
Hidalgo County, TX

Sheriff Mark Dannels
Secretary
Cochise County, AZ

Sheriff David Black
Treasurer
Otero County, NM

Sheriff Joe F. Martinez
Director
Val Verde County, TX

Sheriff Leon Wilmot
Director (PC)
Yuma County, AZ



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

Furthermore, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border. Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Border Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022

William C. McDonald
Executive Director
Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition



Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849

Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

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Chairman

Sheriff Brad Coe
Kinney Co.

First Vice-Chair

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas
Zavala Co.

Second Vice-Chair

Sheriff Tom Schmerber
Maverick Co.

Secretary/Treasurer

Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez
Val Verde Co.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Sheriff Urbino Martinez
Brooks Co.

Director

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque
Zapata County, TX

Director

Sheriff Danny Dominguez
Presidio Co.



The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

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Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Border Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022

William C. McDonald
Executive Director
Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

474 Rogers Canyon Road
Laramie, Wyoming 82072
Telephone: 307 760 4075
www.westernsheriffs.org

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Washington

Sheriff Dave Brown

Wyoming

Sheriff Danny Glick

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Resolution 22-1

Border Security Committee Resolution

Submitted by Committee Chair Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Unanimous Vote of Support by Committee Membership on 03/07/2022

No Confidence in Vice President Kamala Harris

Whereas, the Western States Sheriffs Association represents Sheriffs from 17 states. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

Whereas, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border continues to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

Whereas, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

Whereas, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

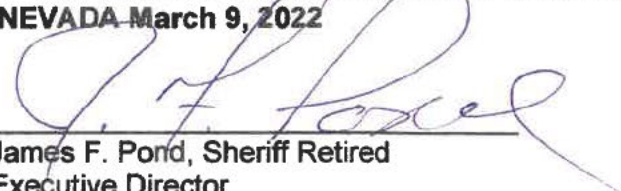
Furthermore, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border.

Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION AT THE 2022 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, RENO NEVADA March 9, 2022



Sheriff Brett Schroetlin
President,
Western States Sheriffs Association



James F. Pond, Sheriff Retired
Executive Director
Western States Sheriffs Association



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Sheriff Dave Brown
Wyoming

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Position Paper

No Confidence in DHS Secretary Mayorkas

The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 17 States. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 10 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the drug cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, slavery, and prostitution in order to pay back the drug cartels for the privilege of being brought to the U.S.

This is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our Border Patrol, southern border Sheriffs and Immigration and Customs enforcement exists. A concerted effort to curb the northward flow of illegal Immigrants has long been the focus of these enforcement officers. For the past several years, much effort and financial resources was focused on the southern border and a great deal of progress was made in limiting the number of illegal crossings.

Today we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of efforts of the past several years. Over a million illegal crossings already this year. Hundreds of thousands of illegal Immigrants who we know for sure entered this country illegally and were never intercepted by law enforcement. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ different countries and some of those are from special interest countries with terrorist ties. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas was appointed and sworn into his position to follow the rule of law in securing our nation. Secretary Mayorkas is the head of the Department of Homeland Security and tasked with carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since his appointment we have seen his policies enacted that are personal and political ideologies that continue to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task.

America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the patchwork of interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming level each and every day. Statics now show that more people have died in the U.S. from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the U.S. at alarming and unacceptable levels. Violent crime is increasing in major cities and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media when the media exhibits the courage to report it.

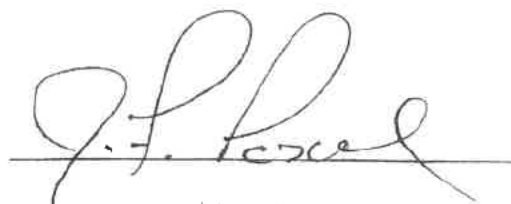
After witnessing this disaster over the past several months and listening to the continued rhetoric and Intellectual dishonesty from Secretary Mayorkas, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of the Secretary Mayorkas, and his leadership within the Department of Homeland Security, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

We call on President Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Secretary Mayorkas from his leadership position and appoint a new leader at the Department of Homeland Security who recognizes, respects and will enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand a new leader who will work, together with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Border Patrol, to regain control of our nation's southern border.

A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand ready to work with our federal enforcement partners and the administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.



Sheriff Leo Dutton
President
Western States Sheriffs Association



James F Pond, Sheriff Retired
Executive Director
Western States Sheriffs Association



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director and CEO

May 27, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the nation's 3,080 plus sheriffs requesting an appointment with you and staff to discuss the ever-increasing demands along our southern border.

Yesterday alone more than 530 persons crossed into Del Rio, Texas illegally, putting a burden on the local sheriff and his community, preventing them from doing their assigned duties of protecting, patrolling, and responding to local needs.

So far this fiscal year has recorded more than 200,000 individuals who have avoided local law enforcement and border patrol arrests, an average of 1,100 "get-aways" per day. 60,000 were in the Tucson Sector alone, making it the highest in the nation. In addition, April 2021 recorded 18,000 unaccompanied minors, the highest total ever. It is clear that the situation in these local communities is at or beyond the breaking point insofar that the Border Patrol has no resources or ability to respond to the surge without violating existing policies.

Our members are sworn to uphold the constitutions and laws of their states. However, unless cross-sworn with federal agencies they have no ability to support the CBP in apprehending and registering those crossing illegally into their communities. At this point they are merely watching (not detaining, arresting or preventing exit) without force border crossers who actively request asylum from our deputy Sheriffs. It is these deputies that are the front line law enforcement officers for these towns and communities along the border. Fortunately our relationships with the Border Patrol are close. However, we have become the de-facto holding agents for them until an authorized federal agent arrives and takes custody of these persons.

This situation has escalated to the point where our border communities are facing significant increases in crime and exorbitant costs to assist the federal government. Between overtime, shortfalls of deputies and officers, health risks, and now an apparently orchestrated effort to cross in locations where shortfalls of manpower of both the Border Patrol and local law enforcement is causing massive problems.

Crime along the border resulting from illegal border incursions is staggering. One example, from the New York Times, reports the death of nine-year-old girl drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande into Texas with her family. At the same time we are seeing increasing brazen behaviors by Coyotes, dropping

President Joseph R. Biden
May 27, 2021
Page Two

individuals in the desert or from border fences. Directly related is the level of opioids and other illegal substances that continue to pour across the border – exacerbating an already epidemic plague in the nation’s interior.

Equally troubling is the rise in violence against women – indentured servitude, prostitution, and human trafficking violence are increasing on the border. In March, USBP brought a 13-year-old girl to the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office. She said she was raped two days earlier while walking through Mexico after leaving El Salvador. Law enforcement finds Plan B abortion pills near the border – a terrible sign of what young people go through as they walk to the border.

At the Del Rio USBP sector, arrests of migrants with sex offense records are up more than 2,500%. This region of the border, relatively quiet for the past decade, has become a major crossing point this year. We need a focused enforcement and federal prosecution strategy to target every high-crossing region. We remain troubled that more immigration judges are not available along the border and able to make decisions in hours and days not months and years.

Adding further concern are confirmed COVID cases of those crossing the border, or in detention facilities. For example, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Aurora, Colorado had a coronavirus outbreak that hit 94 individuals transported to the facility in April and May. It appears a lack of testing and vaccines has caused unneeded cases of the virus moving to the interior of the country. Yet when asked about COVID testing the Border Patrol says “suspected COVID-19 cases are referred to local health systems for appropriate testing, diagnosis, and treatment,” leaving local governments to take on the added responsibility of care-giver for federal wards.

Your administration has prided itself upon seeking a laudable solution “at the source” of this border problem. However, that solution is years in the making and our communities, Sheriffs, and law enforcement are overwhelmed now. They need your help and commitment.

We request a meeting with you and Secretary Myorkas to discuss identifying a new approach to minimizing this dangerous and emergent problem. Our president, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, the NSA’s Border Security Committee chair Sheriff Mark Dannels, NSA’s Government Affairs chair Sheriff Jim Skinner, and myself stand ready to meet at your earliest convenience to identify a mutually agreeable path forward.

Respectfully,



Jonathan F. Thompson
Executive Director and CEO

cc: Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, NSA President
Sheriff Mark Dannels, Chair, NSA Border Security Committee
Sheriff Jim Skinner, Chair, NSA Government Affairs Committee





