

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

COMMENTS ON USDOJ INVESTIGATION REPORT RELEASED JUNE 13, 2024.

On August 5, 2021 the United States Department of Justice opened a pattern and practice investigation of the Phoenix Police Department. On June 13, 2024, the DOJ released its findings.

Unfortunately, the findings back up what has been known statistically for years. The findings also conclude that the public statements given by the Phoenix Police Department in regard to making changes to their policies and procedures and training programs have been largely lip service intended to placate the citizens of the City of Phoenix.

The City and various officers have been the subject of a multitude of lawsuits over the last decade or more. Many of which are still pending.

The City has aggressively defended these lawsuits with large law firms costing the taxpayers of the City millions of dollars. Instead of addressing the pervasive issues relating to Constitutional violations, the City has been able to defend against claims that any policy was Constitutionally deficient in a way that would violate citizens Rights. These claims are known in the legal industry as *Monell* claims. Because of the doctrine of qualified immunity, many instances of excessive force have been swept aside.

The findings presented in the DOJ Report validate what the Civil Rights Lawyers in Phoenix – including Mills + Woods Law – have been advocating for their clients for years.

The DOJ Report is extensive, investigated thoroughly, and conclusive. The Patterns and Practices employed by Phoenix Police Department have been found to be unconstitutional in many areas – including excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment, and in their woeful and unconstitutional racial profiling and in dealing with mental health crises.

The fact that the City seems to be gearing up to fight a potential Consent Decree with the DOJ is sadly expected, but still astonishing. The City owes it to the community of Phoenix to accept any and all recommendations to improve the policing patterns and practices that have plagued the department for a very long time.

Over the years, the Phoenix Police Department has unconscionably consistently ranked as one of the top departments in the United States for officer involved excessive force that result in the injury or fatality of an individual.

Change is necessary. Lip Service is worthless.

On behalf of our clients and others that have had their rights violated, Mills + Woods Law fully supports the recommendations and conclusions of the DOJ Report and welcome discussion around the avenues available to the City. The City should not miss this golden opportunity to truly and completely effect change.

MILLS AND WOODS LAW, PLLC is a team of experienced trial lawyers who are not afraid to take cases to the highest levels. We are dedicated to fighting to redress violations of the Constitutional rights of every person. Every MILLS AND WOODS attorney has taken cases to trial. We have been in front of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals multiple times and have attorneys admitted to the highest courts in the country, including the United States Supreme Court. We use our litigation and trial experience to treat every case with a take no prisoners approach.

For comments or updates, please direct all communications to the offices of MILLS AND WOODS via email at media@millsandwoods.com