



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Operation Summer Shield 2023

(June 15, 2023) Interim Police Chief Michael Sullivan announces epic results of 5-day multi-agency Operation Summer Shield.

The Phoenix Police Department is aware that one of our community's biggest concerns is the safety of our neighborhoods and reducing violent crime across our city. We are listening and acting to directly address on those concerns.

Operation Summer Shield was a multi-agency partnership designed to enhance public safety by proactively removing violent offenders from our communities. A huge thank you to our partners – many of which are represented here today. Here is the list of representatives from each partner respectively.

County Attorney Rachel Mitchell of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Chief of Enforcement Barry Roska of the Maricopa County Sherriff's Office

Major Jack Johnson of the Arizona Department of Public Safety

US Attorney Gary Restaino of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona

Acting Special Agent in Charge Myron Byrd of the Phoenix Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigations

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Eric Fox of the Phoenix Field Division of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Special Agent in Charge Cheri Oz of the Phoenix Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration

Acting U.S. Marshal Van Bayless of the United States Marshals District of Arizona

Homeland Security Investigations Phoenix, unfortunately not represented at the press conference, however please see the written statement below.

The operation took place over a 5-day period last week - from June 5th through June 9th, however the planning stages of this operation took several weeks. The operation was a huge success and was

the direct result of the coordinated planning and execution by all of those involved. This operation has set a new standard in what can happen when law enforcement agencies and the prosecutors who handle these cases, use each other as resources and partners to accomplish a goal to serve this community.

Below are written statements from those partners involved in this operation.

“Our community today is safer than it was one week ago, now that hundreds have been arrested and dozens of violent offenders have been taken off the street. Now, my team has the opportunity to hold those who committed these crimes accountable to the law. I want to thank the Phoenix Police Department for making this effort a priority to keep our community safe. To my prosecutors and staff – who were important partners in this effort – you’ve shown once again that we are here to act in the interest of justice by holding criminals responsible for their actions.” Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell.

“Partnerships are essential in keeping our communities safe. MCSO is committed to collaborations with local, state and federal agencies to apprehend suspected criminals and assist with any efforts to promote public safety.” Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone

“AZDPS is committed to working closely with our law enforcement partners to deter criminal activity and enhance public safety. These unified efforts allow us to maximize our impact on the safety of communities statewide.”

“Our partnership with the Phoenix Police Department is strong,” said United States Attorney Gary Restaino. *“The Public Safety Partnership provides a moderated forum to discuss violent crime from a whole-of-city-government perspective, and the venerable Project Safe Neighborhoods program provides funds both for crime gun intelligence and for academic assessments in neighborhoods most impacted by gun crime. I commend PPD for its thoughtful approach to violent crime suppression during Operation Summer Shield, and for making Phoenix safer by removing firearms from City streets.”*

“The FBI’s Phoenix field office supported Operation Summer Shield by providing analytic and intelligence resources to help arrest teams identify, locate and apprehend subjects. One of the FBI’s primary missions is to assist our local law enforcement partners with coordination and dissemination of critical information in a timely fashion.”

“The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is committed to partnering with our Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners to target the criminal use of firearms. Operation Summer Shield is a great example of collaboration among agencies to focus on offenders causing harm in our community.”

“The Drug Enforcement Administration is proud to stand beside our law enforcement partners, working together in keeping our communities safe and saving lives,” said DEA Special Agent in Charge Cheri Oz.

“The Marshal Service is proud and honored to serve side-by-side with the professional men and women of the Phoenix Police Department. Their unwavering dedication and commitment to the community, while safely removing those who do harm to the citizens of this great city, was evident during this operation and every day on patrol. We look forward to continuing the legacy of support and collaborative efforts our agencies have fostered over the years; staying resolute to reduce violent crime and provide safer neighborhoods for all our families and future generations,” Acting U.S. Marshal Van Bayless

“There is no doubt that when law enforcement agencies work together, the community benefits – case in point – Operation Summer Shield,” said Scott Brown, Special Agent in Charge for HSI Arizona. *“With over 550 people arrested including over 400 for felonies facing charges from weapons violations to violent crimes, this collaborative effort has impacted the unfortunate rising trend of violent crimes. HSI is fully committed to using every resource available at its disposal to support our community and our law enforcement partners in the effort to reverse this trend.”*

The Phoenix Police Department would like to extend thanks to those partnerships that made the collective results of Operation Summer Shield a huge success.

A public copy of the Phoenix Police Department’s Crime Reduction Plan can be found [here](#).

For a Comprehensive story regarding Operation Summer Shield, please check out the PHX [Newsroom story](#).

Please follow the Phoenix Police Department’s social media platforms for additional information and posts related to Operation Summer Shield.

*Sergeant Rob Scherer
Public Affairs Bureau*

