



**City of Phoenix**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SAL DiCiccio  
COUNCILMAN

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To: Ed Zuercher  
Date: March 11, 2014

Subject: 2014 – 2015 Budget

Dear Ed,

As we approach the labor negotiations and the draft budget, I want to make one point abundantly clear - **I will not support any cuts to our police officers' compensations or positions**. They are our first defenders. The Mayor, Council and politicians created the budget fiasco, not the police.

It is up to the Mayor and Council now to solve the problem. Putting this on the backs of our officers and the public is not acceptable.

I believe there are two ways to achieve closing the gap on the projected budget shortfall:

1) Begin resolving the deficit by cutting vacant civilian positions. The city has approximately 1,000 vacant positions and eliminating those could save millions of dollars. By eliminating those positions, we not only help the city's deficit today, but also help the structural deficit that has been created.

2) Sell non-essential surplus property, such as vacant lots and vacant buildings owned by the city. This project has been in the works for over a year and should have been done very long ago. Presenting only three properties in a year's time is insufficient. The properties will not only generate income through sales but also put them back into the tax rolls.

The city is required to balance its budget and again, in no way will I support that effort via cuts to our individual police officers.

Presenting the budget in the manner it was presented gives the public the belief that there is a big budget deficit, when in fact there is not. Adding into the budget items to be negotiated and then taking them back is not good policy and sets a bad example for our employees and the public. I hope we won't be doing that again.

With this letter I am also encouraging the Mayor and other council members to publicly resist cuts to our officers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sal DiCiccio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "D".

Sal DiCiccio