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September 22, 2026

Via Email
Adriane J. Hofmeyr and Rui Wang
Hofmeyr Wang
3849 E. Broadway Blvd., #323
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Re: Response to September 16, 2026 letter concerning Sahuarita Police Department

Dear Ms. Hofmeyr and Mr. Wang:

I write on behalf of the Town of Sahuarita in response to your September 16 letter to the Mayor and Council. The Town takes seriously both your client's concern about an asserted affiliation and the safety concern reported by Councilmember Lytle. The present record does not definitively establish that the three individuals were authorized representatives of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Association (SSSR). It also does not support your letter's accusations that Commander Manny Amado spoke to the press without authorization or that Sahuarita Police Department (SPD) officers acted irresponsibly or unprofessionally.

Your letter relies substantially on the September 15 Green Valley News article. That article reports what the individuals allegedly said about themselves and recounts Commander Amado's description of the information then available to him; it is not an independent verification of their identities or organizational status. Commander Amado acknowledges that his statement that "we know" the individuals were from SSSR was too categorical. He should have said that they reportedly identified themselves as associated with SSSR. The Town does not adopt an unverified claim of affiliation as a finding about SSSR, and it recognizes your client's unequivocal denial that its authorized representatives participated in the encounter. Equally, that denial does not establish that no encounter occurred or justify an attack on the credibility of the person who reported it or the officers who responded.

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Your suggestion that Commander Amado contacted the media without authorization rests on an incomplete account. Chief John Noland directed him to return the reporter's inquiry in his capacity as public information officer and instructed him not to disclose the reporting person's name. He then spoke with Ms. Smith and made no further contact with her or other media about this matter. That account directly contradicts your claim that he initiated an unauthorized media contact. Nothing in your letter establishes a violation of the Code of Conduct provisions you cite. The Town will address any policy question through its ordinary processes based on the actual communications and applicable policy, rather than presume misconduct from a newspaper quotation.

Nor does the fact that Councilmember Lytle contacted the Chief instead of calling 911 establish concealment or improper handling. The article you enclosed says the incident appeared in a police call log and that officers conducted additional patrols. A choice of whom to call, standing alone, does not show that SPD failed to document or respond to a report. Your references to "doubt and obfuscation," without evidence of either, unfairly impugn the department and its officers. Commander Amado has served in law enforcement for more than forty years, including approximately thirty years in public information roles, and reports a longstanding record of professional dealings with the media. The Town asks that your client distinguish between a legitimate request for accurate information and unsupported personal accusations against public servants.

We will treat the six numbered items in your letter as a request for records to the extent they seek records maintained by the Town. The Town's records custodian will search for responsive records and respond under A.R.S. §§ 39-121 and 39-121.01, subject to any applicable redactions or grounds for withholding. This includes assessing any responsive dispatch and incident records, statements, recordings, and records of media authorization. A request for descriptions or a witness list does not require the Town to create a new record, and the Town cannot produce private security footage or other materials it does not possess or control. We will not prejudge what responsive materials exist or what any further inquiry may show. If SSSR has information identifying the individuals or bearing on their claimed affiliation, please provide it to Chief Noland so SPD can evaluate it. The Town remains willing to correct the public record as warranted by reliable information. We ask in return that SSSR withdraw or substantiate its assertions that SPD personnel acted without authorization, concealed the incident, or deliberately made false accusations.

Sincerely,

Jon Paladini

Jon M. Paladini
Town Attorney

JMP/aan

cc: Mayor and Town Council
Shane Dille, Town Manager
Chief John Noland