



**Chief's Update  
September 10, 2013**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

Doing the right thing is not always the easiest thing to do. Oftentimes, doing the right thing is not the most popular thing to do. But doing the right thing – especially when it relates to a matter of public or officer safety – is the only thing to do.

We each took an oath. An oath which binds us together as police officers and one which makes a promise to ourselves, our loved ones, and our community that no matter what the circumstances, we – at all times – will do not only what is right, but what is just and what is necessary.

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States  
and the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona, that I will bear true faith  
and  
allegiance to the same and defend them against all enemies, foreign and  
domestic,  
and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of  
police officer according to the best of my ability, so help me God (or so I do  
affirm).*

By raising our right hands and repeating the words above, we solidified our promise; in return, the public gave us their trust.

Last week, we concluded the first phase of our *Safe and Sober* campaign. No doubt a success, each and every Tempe Police employee went above and beyond to do their part to keep our community safe. Community feedback was extremely positive and we are still fielding telephone calls and emails from residents expressing their appreciation for your hard work.

I echo their sentiments and would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every employee, sworn and civilian for working so hard to combat and prevent youth alcohol consumption, impaired driving, and alcohol-fueled crimes of violence. Further, I would like to thank our law enforcement partners – 9 in total – for recognizing the importance of our mission and contributing resources to serve as an effective force multiplier to our efforts. There is no doubt that the efforts of everyone involved saved lives by intervening at critical moments to prevent people from injuring themselves, others, and even us. The results are telling – not only

are they a testament to your hard work and dedication, but when they are combined with the findings of our Loud Party Report a real public safety problem is recognized.

Rest assured your efforts have not been made in vain, rather they have been noticed. We have received the support of our Mayor and Council, our City Manager, law enforcement brothers & sisters, and most importantly - the residents of our great community.

We have received a re-vamped nuisance and unlawful gatherings ordinance from our Council to assist us in dealing with loud and unruly parties so we can shut them down before they result in major neighborhood disturbances. We have received additional funding and resources from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to sustain our DUI, and Youth Alcohol enforcement efforts. And, we continue to receive support from Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the men and women of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, as well as our other law enforcement partners, who recognize that if left unchecked, this problem can negatively impact the lives of those not only in Tempe but the lives of people across our entire Valley.

Lastly, the Mayor, Council, City Manager Ching and I have been working tirelessly with ASU PD, and ASU Administration to examine ways to partner resources to address these complex issues in a collaborative manner. Special thanks to ASU for their continued support, dedication and ongoing commitment to keeping all members of our community safe..... Make no mistake, our efforts are not about targeting any one specific group, but about keeping our community and one another safe from those who exercise poor decision making when it comes to the over-consumption of alcohol.

This is an exciting time for our city and there is a lot of growth and development on the horizon. We want people to come to our city to enjoy everything it has to offer and we want to make sure we do everything we can to provide a safe environment to do so.

In closing, thank you for your continued hard work, dedication, and support for our collective effort to do the right thing, maintain the public's trust, and abide by the oath we took to protect our community.

Tom Ryff  
Chief of Police