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January 2009 Supervisor's Update

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What an amazing first month as a new County Supervisor. It has been a whirlwind of meetings, emails, phone calls, and introductions. Throughout it all, I still find it unbelievably humbling that you have given me the opportunity to be part of the solution; part of the solution to so many of the problems faced by us all.

This will be the first update of many. I will write monthly of the adventures of serving our county. Hopefully, you'll find the updates both informative and entertaining.

The month started with the Oath of Office ceremony in Florence on the morning of January 2nd. It was a packed house! The energy and anticipation of change filled the room beyond capacity. The Fire Marshal sent dozens away as well-wishers poured out the doors. Thank you to all who attended or attempted to attend. Next time we'll have it at a bigger place.

Supervisor orientation classes continued into January as various departments took the time to talk about their responsibilities, budgets, and personnel. The County Manager did a great job of ensuring both new Supervisor Pete Rios and I had a good understanding of county government. In the spirit of building our new team, returning Supervisor David Snider chose to attend all the orientations as well. I'm pleased to say we are off to a great start; both personally and professionally.

There were two Board meetings this month. The biggest issue we addressed was photo radar. New County Sheriff, Paul Babeu, approached the board with a request to exercise our option to cancel the county's contact with RedFlex Photo Radar. I spoke with the Sheriff about our shared obligation to the safety of the citizens of Pinal County. It was imperative that politics, or the perception of politics, not be allowed to compromise safety. The Sheriff was asked to come back in two weeks and provide additional information about his plans to ensure equal, if not better, public safety.

During that two weeks, multiple citizens wrote letters both in support and against the use of photo radar. I can't emphasize enough how important it is that citizens take the time to get involved. I read and reply to every

email and I return every phone call. Sometimes it takes a couple days, but your voice is heard.

At our second board meeting, Sheriff Babeu presented a short briefing on his plans to enhance public safety without the use of photo radar. The board voted unanimously to end the current contract while emphasizing the Sheriff's role of public safety. I'm personally very confident the Sheriff's plan will work. If it doesn't we'll re-address it!

One of the most pleasant surprises upon entering the job of Supervisor was watching the responsiveness of the county. I received an email from a gentleman who thought his road need more attention. I passed the concern along to Public Works. Two days later I received an email that said the job was done. A pot hole was filled and some debris was removed. Two days! Wow! Of course, that's not always the case. But, I'll tell you, the employees of our county really do care. If they can help, they will.

This first month was filled with so many events it's tough to name them all; community clean up in Queen Valley, meetings with City Councils, Congresswoman Kirkpatrick, Planning and Zoning Commissioners, multiple speaking engagements, discussions with everyday citizens, it's been amazing.

Make no mistake. This job brings many challenges. The times ahead of us are going to be hard and only together can we weather the storm and prepare for the bright future that awaits Pinal County. I ask for your help. Your comments/ideas help to steer this ship. Know that we in Pinal County Government all share the goal of making our county a place we can be proud of. Thank you again for allowing me to be part of the solution. Every month I will single out a Pinal County employee who I believe represents the professionalism, vision, and commitment of our county's employees.

This month I'd like to recognize Ria Petty of the County Manager's Office. Ria's passion for her job is only exceeded by her knowledge and ability. Ria, you make us all proud!

Feel free to write me at bryan.martyn@pinalcountyz.gov or call (480) 982-0659 or (520) 866-6104.

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