

February 2009

A message to residents of District 1 from Supervisor Pete Rios

My first month as your District 1 Supervisor has been filled with meetings and opportunities to hear from you about the issues that affect your life in Pinal County. As with my career in the state legislature, it is my intent to serve you well by being responsive to your needs.

My goal is to keep Pinal County a safe, vibrant, diverse and beautiful county. I am fortunate to reside in one of the best areas of Pinal County, its Copper Corridor.

Let me touch on the area of safety for a moment. In one of his first actions, our new Sheriff sought to end the photo radar program. The previous Board of Supervisors implemented the program to counteract the very real problem of speeding.

Much has been said about photo radar being a revenue generator. That was never the intent of Pinal County's program and, as the Sheriff proved in his analysis, it did not generate much revenue at all for the county. All told, the program generated less than \$13,000 in "revenue" since its inception in 2007.

The DPS program implemented by the state was touted as a revenue generator but that is because it is structured entirely differently. The majority of the fines imposed under the state program flow into the Arizona State General Fund.

Plain and simple, photo radar was implemented in Pinal County as a tool to aid in public safety. After careful consideration, I voted to support canceling the contract and ending the county's photo radar program. The Sheriff has promised to preserve public safety through increased patrols, a more visible presence and more staffing in the areas with problem speeders.

A few weeks ago, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick made her first visit to her new district. She met with me and my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and also with mayors and council members throughout the county. We requested federal aid for road projects, air quality issues, assistance with the land swap for Resolution Copper and continuation of our contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We were honored to be her first visit and trust that she will keep our priorities in mind.

Let me close by saying that this year will be a very challenging year with declining revenue and a long list of services that we need to provide. You can be assured that we will manage Pinal County's finances prudently while still providing adequate county services.

If you need to contact me for any reason, send an email to [pete.rios@pinalcountyaz.gov](mailto:pete.rios@pinalcountyaz.gov) or call my office at 520-866-7830.

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