

August 19th, 2025

Media inquiries: PDPIO@tempe.gov



Statement Re: Woods Lawsuit Provided to Us by the Media

On Aug. 23, 2024, Tempe Police officers stopped and arrested Jalen Woods, a Chicago police officer, for exhibition of speed. This enforcement action was part of the Tempe Police Department's widely publicized campaign to reduce reckless driving and street racing, an initiative that has significantly decreased dangerous driving in our community.

We have not yet been served this lawsuit, but we have read what was provided by media. This document completely mischaracterizes the events of that night. The allegation that Jalen Woods was targeted because of his race is categorically false. Tempe Police officers enforce the law equally, without regard to race or background. Woods' arrest was reviewed by our department's accountability processes, which confirmed our officers acted lawfully and appropriately.

While we respect his position as a fellow law enforcement officer, in Tempe every individual -- regardless of occupation, race, or background -- is subject to the same laws and enforcement standards. The Tempe Police Department stands by our officers, and we will vigorously defend against these false and damaging claims. As ever, our commitment remains to community safety, fairness, and accountability in every interaction.

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