

CITY OF TEMPE DEMOLISHES BASELESS, DEFAMATORY ALLEGATIONS

The City of Tempe will not allow blatant lies and reckless accusations to go unanswered. The letter authored by attorney Lawrence Henke — and shopped to members of the media — is defamatory, malicious, and entirely unsupported by facts.

This letter is nothing more than a smear campaign designed to mislead the public and damage the reputations of City of Tempe officials, Tempe Police and city employees. There is not one iota of evidence in this letter and the City condemns these falsehoods in the strongest possible terms.

City Manager Rosa Inchausti is not authorized to access ACJIS databases and has *never* requested or received ACJIS information. She has never asked for requested or received ACJIS information on any specific individual — including Austin Davis or Ron Tapscott. Henke's claims are a lie.

The City has *never* engaged in harassment, surveillance, or targeted enforcement against any member of the public — including Davis or Tapscott. There has been no campaign, no targeting, and no abuse of authority.

The City has *never* ordered the police department to track homeless individuals through ACJIS information. The City of Tempe conducts its work within the law, with transparency, and with a commitment to ethical conduct. Like virtually every city in the nation, the City of Tempe uses anonymized data to guide and enhance how we provide millions of dollars in services to people in need, including the unhoused community. We also provide a range of statistics regarding the unhoused community to the public via dashboards that have existed for years, like this one:

<https://tempegov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ef1b4ad7fd0e466b9ec2cc595fbb48e>

The City does not — and will not — use law enforcement systems, personnel, or resources for political purposes or any purposes other than those authorized for public safety.

Mr. Henke's narrative includes outrageous fabrications and misleading assertions regarding the operations of the Tempe Police Department and the conduct of City leadership. The allegations that Tempe Police have engaged in unlawful tracking, misuse of confidential information, or the politicization of police resources are offensive, unfounded, and in direct contradiction to the agency's policies, oversight mechanisms, and long-standing commitment to ethical policing.

The suggestion that Chief Kenneth McCoy “systematized” the disclosure of ACJIS information is not only false, but also a malicious attempt to tarnish his character and that of the dedicated men and women of the Tempe Police Department. The allegations that our department engaged in unlawful tracking, misuse of confidential information, or the politicization of police resources are offensive, unfounded, and in direct contradiction to the Tempe Police Department’s policies, oversight mechanisms, and long-standing commitment to ethical policing.

This letter, sent by an attorney busy threatening to sue the City on additional trumped-up allegations, is an appalling pack of lies intended to falsely discredit our organization. The accusations contained in this letter are absolutely, unequivocally false.