



# Fraternal Order of Police Mesa Lodge 9

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## STATEMENT FROM MESA FRATERNAL OF POLICE ON USE OF FORCE INCIDENT DEPICTED ON VIDEO

Your Mesa Police Officers answer nearly 1,000 calls for service each day and do so in an overwhelmingly professional and positive manner. These police officers are amongst the best trained and best equipped anywhere.

As a police labor organization deeply invested in our City, our Police Department and the lives of our residents and our officers – and as an organization that represents two of the officers involved – we understand the concerns raised by the recently released video clip. At the same time, we agree wholeheartedly that the public has the “right to know” the entire story.

With that said, it is important to understand that this video clip contains only one small piece of the complete picture. As you will learn, this incident is much more complex than it has been portrayed solely by reliance on the released video snippet.

To add some context to the video, it is important to understand that the Officers were responding to a “domestic dispute” that included a subject attempting to force his way into an apartment as well as the report of the presence of a gun.

The Chief of Police has already ordered an investigation into this incident, based largely on the video clip. Once the investigation has been completed, we hopefully will have a much better understanding of exactly what took place. We are also hopeful that this investigation will be done in a fair, impartial and timely manner.

During the investigation, potential criminal conduct and policy compliance will be examined.

At this point, we urge caution and patience rather than a rush to judgment.

It is important to remember that anyone accused of wrongdoing in our country – including a police officer – is innocent until proven guilty.

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Each of us has the constitutional right to a thorough, impartial and fair hearing, a hearing where the findings are based on all available evidence, not on emotion, conjecture, a prejudging of the allegations or a single video clip.

It is also important to realize that some police issues require – in fact they demand – the use of physical force to control a situation. Consequently, when physical force and/or violence is applied, it is never pretty and always disturbing.

Finally, we hope everyone intent of forming an opinion about this situation will take into account that the officers involved in this incident represent a wide range of experience, training, background, ethnicity, and rank.

At the end of the investigation, we expect the results to be made available to the public.

We sincerely thank you for your patience and understanding of the process.

Sincerely,

Biascoechea, President Mesa Fraternal Order of Police

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