



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Julie Gunnigle Releases Statement on the Decision of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office to Drop Charges Against Tempe Police Officer

Phoenix -- Julie Gunnigle, Democratic candidate for Maricopa County Attorney, released the following statement regarding the decision to drop charges against the Tempe police officer that shot 14-year-old Antonio Arce in the back:

"Prior to the announcement of our interim Maricopa County Attorney -- many in our community rightly predicted the charges would be dropped against the Tempe police officer continuing the criminal justice status quo in our county. It is unacceptable that public officials like our police officers do not face the same accountability as everyday citizens. My first priority in office is to establish an independent police accountability unit to hold law enforcement accountable for their actions.

This is a failure on the current Maricopa County Attorney's Office showing a lack of leadership, accountability, and transparency. While every case deserves a thoughtful inquiry and thorough investigation, it is unacceptable to delay the decision over a year and prolong the suffering by the Arce family. Simply acknowledging the loss of life in this police shooting incident is not enough -- we need comprehensive criminal justice reform now."

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About Julie Gunnigle

As a former Professor of Law, a current solo practitioner, a mother of three, and former prosecutor of financial crime and public corruption -- Julie Gunnigle understands the complexity of our criminal justice system. Julie is running to transform the Maricopa County Attorney's Office into an institution that is tough, smart, and fair.