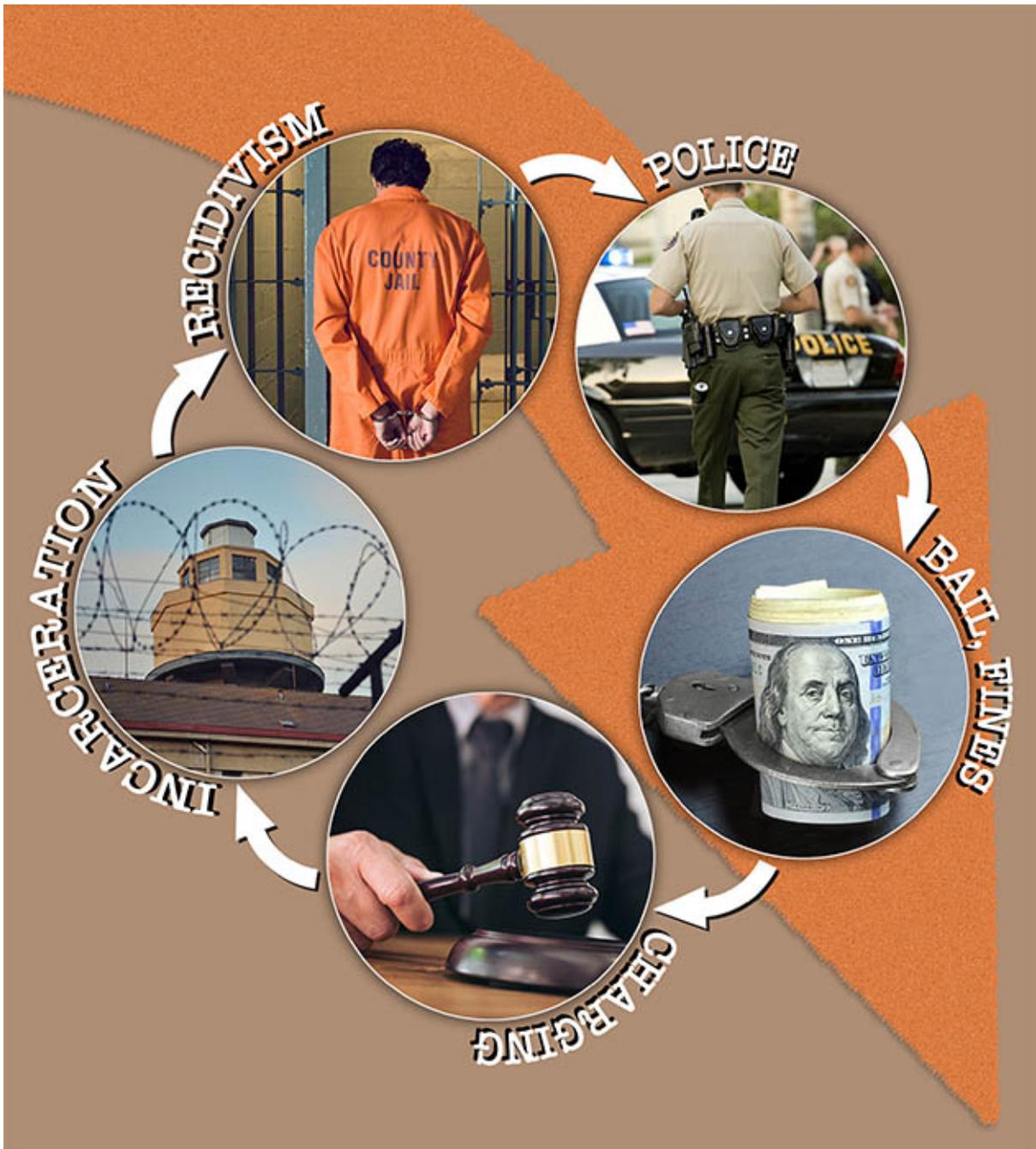


“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

South Phoenix Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – October 11, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

**South Phoenix Community Town Hall Report
October 11, 2018 – Mountain Park Health Center**

Participants of the October 2018 South Phoenix Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Arizona's criminal justice system should serve and protect. It should be just and it should balance safety, punishment and rehabilitation or restoration of those who enter the system. It should not simply be a warehousing system. Rehabilitation should address mental illness and substance abuse issues and it should begin as soon as someone enters the system. People should not leave the criminal justice system with greater mental illness and substance abuse issues than what they had entering the system. The criminal justice system should focus on how to restore people so that they become constructive members of their community.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

We need to build a system that honors relationships, expand communications and education and that teaches respect between communities and those who run the criminal justice system. We need to consider broad changes that include diverse and underrepresented voices.

We need to change the current methods of policing and the culture surrounding it. We need more community policing and more involvement of the community in the entire criminal justice system—including possibilities like a community court. Police need to have more education, including how to better deal with different kinds of people.

There should be more equity in sentencing. We should reevaluate what we are criminalizing and should avoid criminalizing lifestyle choices that do not harm others. We also need to look at reforming or eliminating our bail system.

Instead of sending so many people to jail, we should shift to a system that is more of a restorative model. As part of this system, we should consider diversion programs that are more effective for those with substance abuse or mental illness issues. Or, if someone commits a nonviolent crime, we could require them to do community service instead of going to jail.

We should reform the system so that people do not feel forced to take an unfair plea deal. We also need more qualified judges.

Once people are in the system, we should be running the system using best practices that are outcomes-based. We need to provide programs that allow inmates to transition to life outside of prison. This may include treatment programs, education and life skills.

Our criminal justice system, including our prisons and transitional or halfway houses, should not be based on or motivated by profit.

After release, we need to change policies that keep people from getting housing or employment. For example, we should ban the box on job and housing applications that requires ex inmates to disclose if they have been convicted of a crime. We could also do a better job at helping former inmates to reintegrate back into society, including how to guide them to restore rights such as voting.

Communities can help educate each other and assist former inmates in finding programs that can help them. Change doesn't happen unless we as community members take action. If you want to make change you have to advocate for change.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the South Phoenix Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Follow Arizona Town Hall future activities.
- Continue to improve access and services for our patients.
- Come to another Town Hall meeting and invite someone.
- No longer judge others simply based off of their being experienced in the criminal justice system. Understanding that the system is not just for violent offenders.
- Opinar que cuando asen un delito simple nol os encarselen sino les ayuden con un programa y si usan una droqa que les ayuden nolos metan presos.
- Share the truth of our criminal justice system's data with my family, workplace, and friends, so that we can all consider what is necessary to do to create change for all involved and that they should include in their advocacy that equality is not equal and a broad approach may not work. Some will need more support than others.
- Make contact with criminal justice agencies and distribute information on email and Facebook.
- Continue to work in and for the criminal justice system in a capacity to enact meaningful change.
- Continue to work to connect people to resources they can use to impact change in the local criminal justice system.
- Seek to understand views that are different from my own.
- Ask for understanding of systems that impact my community.
- Use my voice to help communicate with stakeholders on all sides with equity.
- Running for office to be the change I want to see in the community.
- Become more involved in my local government.
- Continue advocating for people in situations that my sons have been in and the sad result of my son's experience in prison and their inability thus far to become members of society.
- Connect with Alison Rapping to find Synergy.
- Connect with Let's Talk.
- Stay involved.
- Guide people through the process to restore Civil Rights.
- I will present the Town Hall Report and the Report of this community Town Hall with the people I work with.
- Participate more in my community and be a voice for change.

- Share the final report with my network.
- Communicate the recommendations with my legislators.
- Educate myself better on this important topic.
- Enhance my skill sets and knowledge to better support my community and those around.
- Continue to build the Arouet Foundation. Support as many women as we can who are currently incarcerated and coming out of incarceration. Serve on State and National Boards and commissions. Advocate, educate, and support. Build community!
- Vote, raise my voice, support organizations and intervention programs.
- Continue to educate for humanity and educate.
- Have discussion with friends about criminal justice in our state.
- Stay more informed about the Town Halls and read the report. Petition our legislature to do more toward prison reform.
- Continue to volunteer in AZ prisons and share any experience and concerns with other members of the community hopefully changing their feelings about those who are incarcerated.
- I want to change with those who have committed murder and don't spend much time in jail but then there are people who are innocent that get too much time in prison.

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