



For Immediate Release: Thursday, July 9th, 2020

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Press Conference

**Students Respond to PXU end of SRO contract for 2020-2021 School Year.
Demand #PoliceFreeSchools Long Term commitment.**

Phoenix, AZ -- On July 7th PXU [Superintendent Chad Geston announced](#) the district's decision not to renew the Intergovernmental Agreement with Phoenix Police for School Resource Officers for the 2020- 2021 academic year.

Student leaders who have advocated for this announcement for years question the timing of this decision and want to make sure that it is permanent. **Since 2016** the **district students** have been focused on breaking the school to prison/deportation pipeline while advocating for zero presence of police in district schools, implementation of restorative justice, increased mental health support services, and commitments to Ethnic Studies.

"Racism is systematic and engrained within our government system, especially the police system. In order to combat racism, drastic measures need to be taken. Removing the presence of police officers on campus permanently will be a step in the right direction." Abia Khan, 2020 North HS Graduate.

It is fueling a national epidemic of racism to provide SRO's with weapons that traumatize and fuel the school to prison pipeline in schools with students of color. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) [report *Beyond Suspensions: Examining School Discipline Policies and Connections to the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Students of Color with Disabilities*](#). The recent rescission of the federal School Discipline Guidance by the Trump Department of Education is wrong, as the USCCR report powerfully underscores, and it undermines civil rights protections for students of color.

We await the Special Board meeting that has been called for July 17th and will be present to make public comments on this item.

Students Demand:

- 1) A resolution is brought up June 17th with a commitment to remove SRO's from Phoenix Union High School Campuses long term. Adopt this as a permanent resolution

- 2) Public statements from School Board President Stephanie Parra, Board Members Steve Gallardo, Lela Alston, and Laura Pastor, who have remained silent on this issue. As elected officials, it is unacceptable to be silent during these times.
- 3) Engage community organizations who have been doing the work of calling out police racism with students during the participatory budgeting process.

When:

Thursday, July 9th, 2020

Time and location:

9:00 AM | Phoenix Union HS District Office (4502 N. Central Ave)

Who:

PXU Student Leaders, Parents, teachers, Poder in Action, Puente Human Rights Movement

Live Stream:

[Puente](#) | [Poder](#)

