

We must back Tyler Kamp

Editor:

Election night of November 2016 was as Charles Dickens coined the term, “the best of times and the worst of times.”

On one hand, Paul Penzone defeated Sheriff Joe Arpaio after so many attempts to oust him from office. On the other hand, Donald Trump won the presidency and nationalized Arpaio’s destructive rhetoric.

Arpaio and Chief Deputy Jerry Sheridan carried out ruthless and unconstitutional raids on Latino communities during their reign at the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. This resulted in court orders that pushed the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to reform and have cost the taxpayers upward of \$300 million. Part of the terms of the court orders was for the office to be informed by numerous advisory boards made up of key constituents to advise the Sheriff’s Office about how best to engage in the community.

The Hispanic Advisory Board was one of these boards. It was made up of Dreamers, business leaders, activists in the Latino community, and educators. As a former state representative and Avondale councilmember, I was proud to serve on this board to help Sheriff Penzone move our county out of the terrible Arpaio and Sheridan era. Sheriff Penzone made great progress, but more work remains.

Jerry Sheridan is seeking to take over the office he helped run into the ground. We literally cannot afford to erase all the progress we have made in the seven years since Arpaio’s ouster. That’s why we must elect Tyler Kamp as sheriff.

Tyler Kamp is a decorated former police officer who has served others locally and internationally. He has the experience, vision and values to make him a

leader in the mold of Sheriff Penzone. How appropriate that Sheriff Penzone’s former campaign team is working to elect Tyler Kamp.

Jerry Sheridan lied under oath, was held in contempt of court, withheld evidence, and terrorized communities of color across the county. His malpractice has cost the taxpayers over \$300 million and it will be more when all is said and done. Sheridan’s unethical behavior resulted in him almost being stripped of his badge and has wound him up on the Brady List — a notorious list of corrupt law enforcement officers.

Perhaps most concerning of all, Sheridan’s prejudicial practices seem to be enhanced by his actual prejudicial views. According to internal MCSO documents, Jerry Sheridan has allegedly used the N-word. And if there were any doubt about the direction Sheridan would go, look at his participation in the recent Trump rally in Glendale featuring a rogue’s gallery of extremists.

By contrast, Tyler Kamp will lead with integrity and will protect all residents of Maricopa County.

How long does Arizona need to be a laughing stock around the country because of our extremist politicians? How long must communities live in fear of prejudicial laws like SB1070 and the “Show Me Your Papers” mandate?

We must once and for all turn the page on the Arpaio era by rejecting his most notorious minion and electing Tyler Kamp to continue the work of Sheriff Penzone.

Lorenzo Sierra
Former state representative
who served on Sheriff Paul Penzone’s
Hispanic Advisory Board

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