



OFFICE OF THE PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Kent Volkmer • Pinal County Attorney

**TO:** PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**FROM:** KENT VOLKMER, PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**SUBJECT:** PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REQUEST FOR USE OF RICO FUNDS

**DATE:** DECEMBER 23, 2020

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The Pinal County Attorney's Office respectfully requests the Board of Supervisors approve an application for use of an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 to assist Pinal County Law Enforcement Agencies in purchasing certified K-9's for drug interdiction and investigative purposes. Due to the passage of Proposition 207, agencies are being required to alter their use of drug interdiction K-9's. Most K-9's currently in use in our community by police agencies are trained to alert to marijuana, in addition to several other illicit substances. With the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use now legal in this state, K-9's alerting to the odor or presence of marijuana is problematic. Our intention is to use these funds to assist our smaller agencies with limited financial resources to purchase new K-9's that are no longer trained to alert to the odor of marijuana.

In accordance with statutory changes made to A.R.S. 13-2314.03 (County anti-racketeering revolving fund; use of fund), when the County Attorney desires to use monies from the anti-racketeering fund for purposes related to the county attorney's office, the statute requires an application that includes a description of what the requested monies will be used for be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. In turn, the Board of Supervisors shall approve the County Attorney's use of the monies if the purpose is authorized by statute or federal law.

Pursuant to the U.S Department of Justice Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, permissible uses of forfeited assets include "(d) Law enforcement equipment- ... For example ... animals and animal related expenses."

The evils associated with drug use and abuse can cripple our communities, schools and families. I see no more appropriate use of anti-racketeering funds than to purchase tools that support law enforcement in interdicting and removing these poisons from our community. These K-9's are a great tool to support our community and it fits squarely within the guidelines as a permissible use of funds. Thus, I am requesting the use of up to, but no more than, \$60,000.00 from the Pinal County Attorney's Office's anti-racketeering funds to support our local law enforcement agencies in purchasing trained and certified K-9's.

