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NOTICE OF CLAIM
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-821.01 and
Ariz.R.Evid. 408

July 10, 2025

Via First Class Mail
Certified Mail
Personal Service
Email

Officer William Rodriguez Gallardo
Phoenix Police Department – Maryvale Station
6180 W. Encanto Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85035

Phoenix Police Department
620 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

City of Phoenix
City Clerk Department
200 W. Washington Street, 15th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
mailbox.city.clerk.department@phoenix.gov

Re: The Shooting of Christopher Phillips on January 17, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

We represent Maria Munoz, the mother of Christopher Phillips, on her own behalf and on behalf of the Estate of Christopher Phillips, Jocelyn Philips Rosas, Matthew Noel Phillips, and Amelia Grace Phillips, the minor children of Christopher Phillips.

On January 17, 2025, under color of state law, Phoenix Police Officer William Rodriguez Gallardo shot and killed Christopher Phillips. Officer Rodriguez Gallardo was reporting to a call for suspected trespassing at a property Christopher Phillips was renting. Christopher Phillips ran away from the scene when officers arrived. Officer

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Rodriguez Gallardo was following Christopher in his patrol car. Moments later, Officer Rodriguez Gallardo shot Christopher in the back as he was running away and killed him.

Christopher Phillips posed no threat to officers when he was shot and killed from behind. Officer Rodriguez Gallardo claimed that Christopher pointed his gun at the officers, but the body worn camera does not show Christopher pointing a gun at any officer. What the body worn camera does show is that Officer Rodriguez Gallardo did not fire his weapon until at least 5 seconds after Christopher is seen running in the opposite direction – away from the officers. None of the body worn camera footage shows Christopher point a weapon at the officers at any time.

The following screenshots from the body worn cam footage from Phoenix's Critical Incident Briefing show the approximate time frame:

Officer Rodriguez Gallardo says Christopher pointed his gun:



Officer Rodriguez Gallard shoots Christopher Phillips:

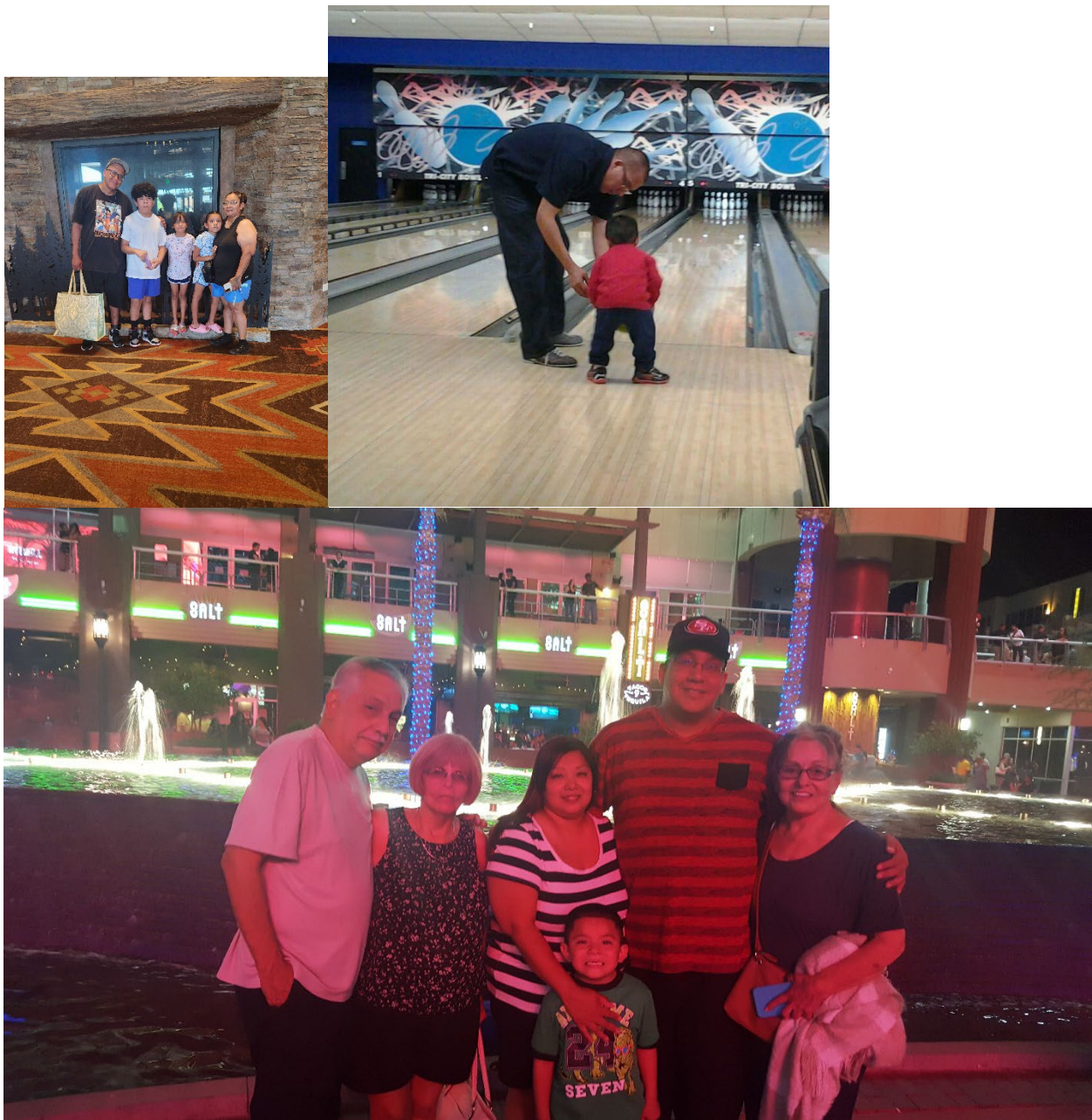


Any death is tragic and especially an intentional killing committed for no reason whatsoever—whether or not the killing occurs under color of state law. But this unjustified and unconstitutional killing is made even more tragic by who this victim was. Christopher was only 45 years old when Officer Rodriguez Gallardo shot him from behind and killed him. All Christopher did—at most—was flee for suspected trespassing, along with several other subjects.

Before Officer Rodriguez Gallardo killed him, Christopher was a loving and active father to his three young children. Many family members lived close by, and he lived a healthy, happy life with family and many friends. His children loved him and cared for him and had a strong relationship with him.







Maria is Christopher's mother and his statutory beneficiary pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-612. Jocelyn, Matthew, and Amelia are Christopher's children. They have claims and relief under Arizona law against Officer Rodriguez Gallardo, the Phoenix Police Department, and the City of Phoenix, for negligence, gross negligence, negligent training and supervision, and for Christopher's wrongful death. *See*, Revised Arizona Jury Instructions (6th), Personal Injury Damages 3.

Maria, Jocelyn, Matthew, Amelia and Maria on behalf of Christopher's estate, also have claims against Officer Rodriguez Gallardo, the Phoenix Police Department, and the City of Phoenix for their violation of Christopher's Fourth Amendment right against

unreasonable seizure of his person, and specifically for using excessive force by killing Christopher without reasonable justification. His mother and children also have 14th Amendment claims for loss of familial association with Christopher.

These violations of Christopher's rights against unreasonable seizure under the 4th Amendment entitle Maria, Jocelyn, Matthew, Amelia and Christopher's estate to damages pursuant to 42 A.R.S. § 1983. They also entitle Maria, Jocelyn, Matthew, Amelia and Maria on behalf of Christopher's estate, to punitive damages against Officer Rodriguez Gallardo, the Phoenix Police Department, and the City of Phoenix. "[A] jury may award punitive damages ... either when a defendant's conduct was driven by evil motive or intent, or when it involved a reckless or callous indifference to the constitutional rights of others." *Morgan v. Woessner*, 997 F.2d 1244, 1255 (9th Cir. 1993). The act of shooting a person from behind and killing him, because that person fled from the scene of minor crimes, could not be more callously indifferent to that person's constitutional rights.

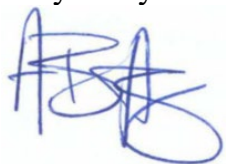
Officer Rodriguez Gallardo, the Phoenix Police Department, and the City of Phoenix also violated Maria's, Jocelyn's, Matthew's, Amelia's and Christopher's 14th Amendment rights. Parents and children possess a constitutionally protected liberty interest in companionship and society with each other. *Smith v. City of Fontana*, 818 F.2d 1411, (9th Cir. 1987). Officer Rodriguez Gallardo's unjustified killing of Christopher put an end to those relationships forever, at least as far as this claim is concerned.

Pursuant to ARS 12-821.01, Maria, Jocelyn, Matthew, Amelia and Maria on behalf of Christopher's Estate, will resolve any and all claims related to the death of Christopher Phillips, for an aggregate sum certain of **\$5,000,000.00**. To the extent that the City needs an allocation of the above-referenced sum certain, the sum certain would be allocated as follows:

Maria:	\$1,000,000
Jocelyn:	\$1,000,000
Matthew:	\$1,000,000
Amelia:	\$1,000,000
Estate of Christopher Phillips:	\$1,000,000
+	
	\$5,000,000 (aggregate)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AB' followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Anoop Bhatheja, Esq.

cc: Les Truskett Tuskai, Esq.