

## **STATEMENT BY PINAL COUNTY REGARDING PROSECUTION OF FORMER COUNTY MANAGER**

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors was recently informed that Stanley D. Griffis has pled guilty to multiple felony charges stemming from his former tenure as Pinal County Manager. We are outraged by the criminal conduct and breach of public trust for personal financial gain committed by an official previously employed by this body.

This plea agreement is the culmination of a 13 month investigation conducted by former Maricopa County Attorney Richard Romley, who was retained by Pinal County Attorney, Carter Olson and the Board of Supervisors to serve as a Special Investigator/Prosecutor in this matter. The Board, the County Attorney and their respective staffs fully cooperated with Mr. Romley throughout the course of this investigation, and are appreciative of the thorough, professional and independent manner in which this complex matter was investigated and prosecuted.

This investigation revealed that the former County Manager abused the trust the Board of Supervisors placed in him to effectively create an environment in which he had unbridled autonomy over financial matters. Clearly, Mr. Griffis made a conscious decision to abuse that trust for considerable personal gain. The Board of Supervisors has accepted complete responsibility for misplacing its trust in the former Manager and has already implemented significant organizational changes, new policies and new procedures to ensure that there are even greater check and balances in Pinal County

government. Pinal County does not, however, accept responsibility for the personal criminal conduct of Mr. Griffis.

Although this investigation and prosecution has been a difficult ordeal, the Board of Supervisors has never wavered in its support for this investigation. Corruption by public officials, no matter their title, cannot and will not be tolerated. It is important to keep in mind that the people of Pinal County are the innocent victims of Mr. Griffis' crimes. Pinal County is confident that the criminal justice system will hold him fully accountable for the crimes he perpetrated on the public.