



NEWS RELEASE

County Administrative Office

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Statement of Chairman Ramos on Pusok arrest

The following is a statement by Board of Supervisors Chairman James C. Ramos on the April 9, 2015 Arrest of Francis Pusok:

“The incident in our High Desert last week has provoked concern among members of the Board of Supervisors. However, we cannot interfere in the ongoing investigations by inserting ourselves into what is a law enforcement and legal matter. It is important that these investigations be allowed to proceed without political consideration. We too urge the public to be patient.

“The Board of Supervisors has always been and remains a strong supporter of public safety and the brave men and women who risk themselves to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe. However, the Board has very limited authority over the operations or personnel of agencies headed by independently elected constitutional officers such as the Sheriff, and none over matters under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system.

“There are two independently elected constitutional officers who will conduct investigations into this matter, the Sheriff and the District Attorney. The Board of Supervisors is confident the Sheriff and the District Attorney will conduct thorough investigations and take appropriate action.

“The Board of Supervisors is aware the Sheriff has been exploring a pilot program to use body cameras in the department. The Board encourages the Sheriff to implement the pilot as soon as possible and bring a recommendation to the Board for consideration on a larger-scale program.”

