



Ready to Protect
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

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TERMINATION OF TUCSON POLICE OFFICER

Officer Lynsey Coutts, a 4-year veteran of the Tucson Police Department, was arrested as a result of an On-Duty Driving Under the Influence (DUI) investigation that initiated on the morning of May 22, 2012. Since March 2012 Ms. Coutts had been subject to a contract, known as Conditions of Continued Employment, to address concerns about her use of alcohol. One of the conditions imposed in the agreement prohibits the presence of alcohol in her system during a scheduled work shift. She was scheduled to begin work at 9:00 a.m. on May 22, 2012. However, she spoke on the phone with a supervisor at approximately 9:20 a.m., advising that she was driving fast on Interstate 10 and was in fear of colliding with other vehicles on the roadway. The supervisor successfully convinced her to exit the freeway and stop. She did so, pulling off at the Avra Valley exit. Police personnel from Operations Division West immediately responded to the Avra Valley exit of Interstate 10. Upon arrival, they located Ms. Coutts in the driver's seat of a vehicle. They also noted that Ms. Coutts was exhibiting signs and symptoms of possible alcohol intoxication. Officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) were requested and responded to the location as well. The DPS personnel conducted a DUI investigation, ultimately placing Ms. Coutts under arrest for various charges associated with Driving Under the Influence.

At the conclusion of the DPS investigation, the Tucson Police Department personnel conducted an administrative Preliminary Breath Test (PBT), determining that Ms. Coutts had a Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.235. The PBT was administered under the provisions of the Conditions of Continued Employment agreement that was effective as of March 2012. Additionally, the agreement specified that the penalty for violating any of the conditions of the agreement is discharge from employment with the City of Tucson. As such, Ms. Coutts was served with a Notice of Intent to Terminate on the afternoon of May 22, 2012. The Civil Service Hearing relating to her termination is scheduled for May 29, 2012.

The Tucson Police Department treats all allegations of criminal acts or misconduct by employees as serious, especially criminal acts or misconduct occurring while employees are on-duty. Ms. Coutts' actions are not representative of the nearly 1400 men and women of the Tucson Police Department who serve their community with integrity and put their lives on the line each day. A photograph of Ms. Coutts is included below.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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