

Mayor Regina Romero, for example, declared: “This is excessive, and sends the wrong message to our community. What we need is systemic reform and meaningful policy change, not militarization” ([LINK](#)). On the other hand, the railbird acknowledged the validity of the criticism about lacking communication from the governor’s office with the mayors, a consistent theme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic ([YS, 4/29](#)). The source said crisis should result in more collaboration among local leaders.

IT’S THE MINDSET

Emily Anne Gullickson re-launched A for Arizona, a program previously under the wings of the Arizona Chamber Foundation though this time, the group is operating independently. Gullickson, former CEO of the Arizona Chamber Foundation, said A for Arizona’s goal remains the same. “Our unapologetic focus is the success of every Arizona student,” she said. Like its past incarnation, A for Arizona is less centered on school finance and more on figuring out who is succeeding in educating children to emulate those accomplishments. “Money is not the silver bullet – there are schools who continue to defy the odds. It’s a mindset first.” Gullickson said some schools get relatively large funding shares and “they’re still not turning around, still not yielding great teaching and learning opportunities.” She added: “Achieving excellence is a decision.” Among the group’s immediate goals is to highlight successful schools and leaders and ensure the business community, for example, notices their efforts.



DiMARIA JOINS DC-BASED FIRM

Total Spectrum, a DC-based public affairs firm, is launching an Arizona office, and has picked off longtime CenturyLink lobbyist Michael DiMaria as its partner and Southwest regional director. The firm’s national managing partner, Steve Gordon, is a veteran political consultant who served on the national finance committee for John McCain’s presidential campaign. DiMaria noted that Arizona is a relatively young state that is attempting to diversify its economy, which still mostly relies on the housing industry. As the state succeeds in attracting companies, policymakers will grapple with issues emerging out of an economy that’s increasingly driven by technological innovations, he said. How, for example, will policymakers approach machine-to-machine interactions for taxing purposes? “I am hoping we would be able to get in front of these issues, and think about ways to make the state better and stabilize our financial positions,” he said. DiMaria currently serves as Tax Policy Committee Chairman of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is on the board of InvisionAZ and is a past chairman of both the Arizona Tax Research Association and the Western Maricopa Coalition.

GOODBYE, DORIS

Capitol denizens are mourning LD5 representative Doris Goodale, whose death Cobb announced late this morning. Goodale, a Kingman Republican, represented LD5 from 2009 through 2015. “This was a wonderful woman that sacrificed for the state of AZ. She will be missed but her spirit will live with us,” Cobb wrote. The House honored Goodale with a resolution last spring, specifically citing her resolution to