

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 7, 2009

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISOR MEMBER ADMITS:**

### ***\$1.6 MILLION FOR SHERIFF'S IMMIGRATION FIGHT IGNORED BECAUSE OF INVESTIGATION CLAIMS***

(Phoenix, AZ.) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said today his office has learned that \$1.6 million dollars of state funded money to help the Sheriff fight the onslaught on illegal immigration is being intentionally withheld from the Sheriff— namely because some members of the Board of Supervisors are under criminal investigation by Sheriff's deputies.

In a phone call between the President of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association (PLEA), who publicly supports Arpaio's fight against illegal immigration and Board of Supervisor Fulton Brock, Brock admitted that the board was unwilling to release the \$1.6 million needed by the Sheriff to augment his dwindling budget "because board members are under investigation."

Arpaio says the withholding of the state money is tantamount to a political hold-up. "I have to wonder if the investigation ended, would these board members vote to give this money back to my office? The people of this county are being held hostage by this nonsense."

**News Release**

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The Board is also using another excuse, Arpaio says, for denying the money. It cites the U.S .Attorney General’s non-criminal investigation of the Sheriff and his deputies for alleged racial profiling as a secondary reason for the refusal to appropriate the funds. “There are no charges of criminal violations or even a civil lawsuit. I received a polite letter saying the Justice Department had some complaints to look into, that’s it!” said Arpaio.

The money in question was originally given to the Sheriff for his illegal immigration operations by the Arizona legislature. Suddenly in May 2008, then Governor Janet Napolitano took the money away from the Sheriff, giving it instead to a state wide task force. Arpaio fought back through the state legislature and with the help of Senator Russell Pearce and Representative John Kavanagh, the legislature agreed to the rightful return of the money to the Sheriff’s Office.

“Why would anyone turn down \$1.6 million dollars in today’s economy?” Arpaio asked. “The real reason is either game playing or pure politics because this board is capitulating to open borders activists who want me to stop enforcing the immigration laws.” END

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