

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 16, 2009

SHERIFF ARPAIO LAUNCHES COUNTY-WIDE CRIME SUPPRESSION/ ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION

FOCUS SHIFTS TO HUMAN SMUGGLING AS SMUGGLERS CHANGE METHODS TO EVADE DETECTION

(Phoenix, AZ) Despite the fact that the Obama administration recently took away Sheriff Joe Arpaio's authority to enforce the law enforcement portion of the 287(g) program, the Sheriff announces today that a two-day long county-wide crime suppression/illegal immigration operation will begin tonight at 5PM.

Two hundred volunteer posse, reserve, deputy, and helicopter air support units will be on the streets, highways, and in the air today throughout Maricopa County in what is now the 13th crime suppression/illegal immigration operation undertaken by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

Today's focus, Sheriff Arpaio says, will be on finding and apprehending smugglers and their co-conspirators who travel through Maricopa County to work destinations as far away as New York, Florida, New Jersey, California, and other states. To date, the Sheriff's Office has arrested and booked over 1,700 smugglers and co-conspirators on felony human smuggling charges.

Arpaio says his deputies who patrol smuggling routes and drop house activity are finding that the smugglers are changing the way they do business to better evade detection and capture.

"What we are finding," Arpaio says, "is that smugglers are blending into the

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community by making drop houses look more legitimate. They put up holiday decorations and take care of the front lawns; they hang curtains in windows as a way to lessen the likelihood a suspicious neighbor will call authorities.”

Arpaio says his deputies are also seeing that drop houses are utilized for shorter periods of time, moving to new locations sooner than in months past as a way to avoid detection by law enforcement.

“We are also noticing a significant change in travel routes,” Arpaio says. “State highways still remain the main travel paths for smugglers and their co-conspirators but more and more vehicles are being apprehended on alternate, out of the way routes.”

This two day long operation will center on detecting load vehicles, Arpaio says. The area of I-17 and Anthem Way has proved fertile ground for such traffic stops in the past, he says.

Any stops made on highways today and filmed by open borders groups who have recently been following Sheriff’s deputies during these crime suppression operations may be arrested, Arpaio says.

Activists started in earnest filming the crime suppression stops after the Reverend Al Sharpen publicly encouraged activists to do so in March of this year.

“It is illegal to stop and stand on an interstate unless it is an emergency situation,” Arpaio says. “These open borders activists will be warned only once. If they refuse, as we suspect they will, they will be arrested and booked into jail.”

Today’s operation is the 13th crime suppression/illegal immigration operation conducted by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office in and around the Phoenix metropolitan area since March of 2008.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio will brief the media on this information today at 5PM at the Sheriff’s Training Center, 2627 South 35th Avenue Phoenix.

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