

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: December 30, 2009

Sheriff's Office Conducts Year End Operation to Detect Vendors Selling Alcohol to Underage Buyers

(Maricopa County, AZ) On Wednesday, December 30, 2009, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio mobilized 70 law enforcement officers and volunteer posse members to conduct a county-wide operation aimed at detecting the illegal sale of alcohol to underage buyers.

According to the Sheriff, the undercover operation will involve a number of officers and posse volunteers posing as party goers out for a good time involving alcohol.

Those found selling spirits to underage consumers will be immediately arrested and jailed, says Arpaio. And that will not be the end of it. Sheriff Arpaio plans to have his deputies follow up with the establishments that are in violation in the next 30 days to see if they have cleaned their acts up.

"We try to remain vigilant about this issue considering how serious it is," Arpaio says. "Underage drinking is always a problem, more so this time of year perhaps than almost any other. Many retailers are aware that in the past we have run these operations yet still there are those who continue to violate the law. They are the ones we will gladly haul into jail."

Sheriff Arpaio warns business owners and managers that this will not be a cite and release operation. Violators will be arrested and booked even if deputies have to shut down a business when the violator happens to be the only person working inside of the business.

Media is invited for ride-alongs with the units. A press briefing by Sheriff Arpaio is slated for 6PM on Wednesday from the Sheriff's Command Post which will be located at 3325 West Durango Road. Please contact the on call PIO for more information.

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