

***Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief***

December 27, 2007

Sheriff's Mall Patrol Concludes

The 15th annual Posse Mall Patrol concludes today and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says it was another successful year.

In all, ten Valley shopping malls were provided free police protection by over 400 volunteer posse members and reserve deputies, who volunteered over 1,400 hours of free security. The operation netted 17 arrests for a variety of criminal activity, including drug possession, theft, criminal warrants and traffic violations.

Arpaio started the Mall Patrol in 1993 after a series of violent car-jackings at local malls. Protecting the well being and safety of the shopping public has been the goal of his volunteer posse and deputies since the very beginning of the program.

“This year was a quiet year as far as crime encountered at the malls goes,” says the Sheriff. “Shoppers enjoyed a safe holiday season while visiting the malls.”

Nearly 4,000 citizen contacts were initiated by posse members and deputies. They helped clear 5 warrants, assisted other law enforcement agencies 190 times, and even recovered one stolen vehicle.

“I commend the posse for its great work. Its yearly presence is one of the reasons our community has had virtually no violent crime committed in and around the malls during the last 15 holiday shopping seasons,” Sheriff Arpaio says.

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