

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 17, 2009

ACORN RECORDS SOUGHT IN RACIAL PROFILING CASE *Sheriff Arpaio Questions Sharpton and Lewis Funding for Recent Visit*

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's counsel in a federal lawsuit has subpoenaed a wide array of records from ACORN, a national community action group closely tied to President Obama. The records requested relate to the Melendres v. Arpaio lawsuit, which alleges racial profiling by the Sheriff and his deputies during crime suppression sweeps. Arpaio believes that the records will show that ACORN is working closely with plaintiffs and their counsel in the Melendres lawsuit to advance their political agenda.

"I believe the organization used state and federal funds meant to help poor people to conduct a campaign against me and my officers," said Arpaio. "These records will show, I believe, that ACORN is in bed with the anti-immigration enforcement organizations which continue to demonstrate in front of my office trying to thwart my officers from enforcing state and federal law."

The subpoenas were prepared by Sheriff Arpaio's local counsel, Timothy Casey, and forwarded to co-counsel in Washington, D. C. for service on ACORN's headquarters office. Subpoenas were also served on the local ACORN office. The decision as to who, if anyone, at ACORN will be deposed will be made after Sheriff Arpaio's attorneys review the records sought.

Bertha Lewis, ACORN's national director, and the Rev. Al Sharpton went on national television to demand Sheriff Arpaio's resignation and added their accusations of racial profiling to other local critics who have made the same claim for over two years. In June, Lewis and Sharpton traveled to Phoenix to press their demands in person.

News Release

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Arpaio responded by saying, “I have never allowed my deputies to racially profile and never will,” “I will never back down from enforcing the immigration laws of the State of Arizona and this country. With all the recent revelations about ACORN, it wouldn’t surprise me that they paid for Sharpton’s visit and are funding the protestors outside my office, and I’ll bet they are funding this frivolous lawsuit.”

Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre added, “The Sheriff is evaluating the advisability of formally requesting Senator Mike Johanns of Nebraska and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo of New York to add his concerns to their announced investigations.”

“Apparently, ACORN’s scorn is not only for immigration laws. It seems to have little regard for several other areas of the law given what the video cameras have recorded in the last few weeks. I assume ACORN will have its hands full cleaning up this mess and less time to travel to Maricopa County.” END

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