

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 4, 2008

### **SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES JAIL 13 PEOPLE IN FIRST DAY OF ILLEGAL ALCOHOL SALES OPERATION**

#### **Major Chains and Mom & Pop Stores Targeted**

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is making good on his public promise made last month through the local media to crack down on valley retail employees illegally and willfully selling alcohol to minors.

Arpaio dispatched deputies last night who fanned out across the valley hitting 91 different establishments.

Of those, 10% of the stores and their employees violated the law by selling alcohol to undercover Sheriff's officers under the age of 21 working with deputies to test the establishments' adherence to the state liquor laws.

Thirteen people were arrested and booked into jail including one illegal immigrant. That illegal immigrant was booked, now has an immigration hold on her and she is awaiting deportation.

Two major chain stores, Circle K and 7-Eleven both had employees who violated the law and were booked in the Fourth Avenue Jail.

The Sheriff's operation included eight teams of five people each which covered the valley. More teams will go out later today, says Arpaio.

"Underage drinking and driving is a critical problem and we are attacking it at its source," Arpaio.

The Sheriff will answer media questions about the operation today at 4:15 PM in front of the Fourth Avenue Jail Intake Doors. Media ride-alongs will leave from there. A MRO will be on scene to coordinate.

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News Release

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