

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 1, 2008

### ANOTHER WIN FOR ARPAIO'S JAILS

#### *9<sup>th</sup> Straight Court Verdict In Favor of Sheriff's Office*

(Phoenix, AZ) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Joe Arpaio won another court case, making this the 9<sup>th</sup> straight verdict for the Sheriff's Office in recent months.

This recent court victory concerns the mail policies in effect in the Maricopa County jails. The Sheriff's policy allows inmates to receive metered postcards only; no other type of mail is accepted unless it is considered "privileged." Privileged mail is correspondence an inmate receives from his or her attorney of record. While options have been limited, the United States District Court of Arizona recognized that inmates in Sheriff Arpaio's jails could still keep in contact with families and loved ones through unlimited use of the post cards, visitation, and phones.

The policy was implemented to reduce the contraband coming into the jails and to deploy officers assigned to screening tens of thousands of letters each day back to duties involving direct oversight of inmates. In 2007, the year the post card rule went into effect, contraband entering the jails went down by almost 40 percent.

Arpaio says this is another example of a controversial policy that saves the taxpayers in the long run. It has already led to reduced personnel costs, reduced contraband, reduced health care costs and reduced inmate-on-inmate violence. The short-term costs of defending the office in court are far outweighed by the long-term benefits.

"Inmates sue," Arpaio says. "I have been sued for purging pornography, eliminating coffee and reducing jail-visiting hours. What is important is the fact that once again the courts recognize it is the elected Sheriff who runs the jail system. My policies have not only made jails safer, they are operationally more cost efficient as well."

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News Release

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