

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 14, 2009

### ARPAIO TO MEET WITH GUADALUPE MAYOR

#### **SHERIFF TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PROVIDE TOWN WITH CONTINUED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

(Phoenix, AZ.) Months of verbal wrangling may be nearing an end as Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Guadalupe Town Mayor Frankie Montiel are slated to meet today, Wednesday, January 14, 2009 in the Sheriff's downtown offices. The meeting is to discuss the future of law enforcement in the one square mile town.

That discussion will take place at 2:30 PM on Wednesday. The Sheriff indicated he will make a decision by the conclusion of the meeting and hold a joint press conference with Montiel at 3 PM to announce his decision. That press conference will be held in the Sheriff's Administrative Office at 100 West Washington, Suite 1900.

The dispute between the town and the Sheriff began on April 4<sup>th</sup> of last year when the former mayor criticized the Arpaio's enforcement of immigration laws. She publicly stated to the local and national news media that she did not support the Sheriff's crime suppression/illegal immigration operations in the Guadalupe community.

Arpaio responded to her attacks and her unfounded accusations of racial profiling by saying that his office would stop providing law enforcement services to this contract city in March 2009.

Since that time, the Sheriff's Office has continued providing services while the town council sought to find another law enforcement agency willing to take the job. To date, no agency has come forward with an offer of assistance.

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The meeting between Montiel and Sheriff Arpaio is anticipated to be cordial and professional as Montiel has publicly expressed support for the Sheriff and his deputies in their efforts to reduce crime in Guadalupe.

“I understand, as do most of the residents of Guadalupe, that the Sheriff has a job to do which is to uphold all the laws of this state,” Montiel says. “When deputies are in Guadalupe and make arrests of people who are committing crimes, including those who are in this country illegally, I cannot take issue with that. This is a public safety issue and not just an illegal immigration issue.”

Arpaio says, “I cannot in good conscience desert the town’s citizens leaving them without any law enforcement protection. We will enforce all the laws in our areas of responsibility as the Mayor and I work together ensuring citizens of Guadalupe are protected.”

Should an agreement not be forthcoming, the contract stands to expire in March 2009. Guadalupe and its 4000 citizens would be without police protective services for the first time since its town incorporated in 1975.

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