

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 17, 2009

SHERIFF ORDERS 900 INMATES MOVED INTO NEW HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

SAYS MOVE AVOIDS NEW JAIL SPACE OR EARLY RELEASE OF INMATES

(Phoenix, AZ) Several weeks after a controversial move of 220 inmates from one jail into their own Tent City, Sheriff Joe Arpaio says he plans another move. Today, hundreds more inmates will be moved into a new housing arrangement to avoid additional taxpayer money having to be spent on a new housing unit or costly jail renovation.

Friday afternoon beginning at 4PM, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio will have the entire Durango jail complex on security override as 900 pre-sentenced inmates are moved in chains and walked between the Lower Buckeye Jail and Towers facility.

While jails and prisons in Arizona and elsewhere are releasing prisoners early due to space or staff reductions, Arpaio's decision to move these inmates will actually open up 200 more beds for medium and maximum security inmates.

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News Release

“For 16 years,” Arpaio says. “I’ve had a vacancy sign shining over Tent City to tell everybody we will always find a way to make room for more law breakers. Even in hard times like these, I’m not about to allow the early release of inmates because we run out of bed space for bad guys.”

The transfer of inmates will be overseen by Arpaio as it gets underway at 4PM on Friday, April 17, 2009. It will be secured by the presence of canine units, the Sheriff’s SWAT and Special Response teams as well as deputies and armed posse. The move begins at the Lower Buckeye Jail sally-port located behind the front of the jail, on the northeast corner of the facility.

According to the Sheriff’s jail records and jail history, the inmate population begins to swell during the summer months making space management of a growing population even more critical. END

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