

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 17, 2009

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RAID ANOTHER BUSINESS

Arpaio Enlists Cooperation of Business Owner

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies this morning raided Berardi Enterprises, a construction reclamation company located at 8439 N. 83rd Avenue in Peoria.

The Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip last year from an employee of Berardi Enterprises who claimed that the company was knowingly hiring illegal aliens using fake identification. That employee no longer is with the company.

Five employees of the business suspected of being illegal aliens were arrested on identity theft charges, a class four felony. Berardi Enterprises' management was cooperative with deputies and helped to locate suspects after they learned that some employees were skeptical of reporting to work because they heard that the business was being raided.

"These investigations would be much easier on everybody if we could get the same type of cooperation from businesses that we got from this company. Today's operation should serve as a message to all companies who hire illegal aliens." Sheriff Arpaio says.

While conducting this morning's raid Sheriff's deputies learned that one of the suspects was using the identity of a U.S. Border Patrol agent. "This once again proves that identity theft is not victimless and affects many people" Sheriff Arpaio says.

The Sheriff states that this morning's raid marks the 24th investigation carried out by Sheriff's deputies on businesses engaging in the practice of hiring illegal aliens.

News Release

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