

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: March 16, 2006

EIGHT ILLEGAL ALIENS NABBED IN ANOTHER SHERIFF'S EMPLOYER SANCTIONS CASE

Arpaio Continues Crackdown Despite Federal Probe

(Phoenix, AZ) Sheriff's deputies this morning raided a painting company and arrested eight (8) illegal aliens and booked them into jail on class four felony identity theft and forgery charges. Many of the arrests took place in Phoenix where the painters were sub-contracted.

This investigation originated after calls to the Sheriff's tip line came in several weeks ago from persons formerly employed by Cochran Painting Company, 6855 West Frier Drive, Glendale, who claimed that U.S. citizens working there were fired recently while the illegal aliens were retained for employment.

"Perhaps because Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and Board of Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox promote our community as a sanctuary city, businesses in Phoenix and surrounding areas are continuing to hire illegal aliens instead of American citizens without fear of repercussion," Arpaio says.

According to published reports, Mayor Gordon traveled last week at taxpayer expense to Washington D.C. where he met with Department of

News Release

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Justice officials. The same officials he met with announced that very day their intention to investigate the Sheriff for civil rights violations. This meeting occurred one year after a failed attempt by Gordon to get the former U.S. Attorney General to investigate Arpaio for similar allegations.

Since Arpaio's crack down on businesses that hire illegal aliens, 239 have been arrested including 143 who were booked for felony I.D. theft. Under the 287-G agreement between Arpaio's office and the federal government, Sheriff's officials have arrested and detained over 24,000 illegal aliens.

The Sheriff's Office has also arrested over 1,250 illegal aliens on state human smuggling laws, a class four felony. END

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