

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



### **COLUMBUS OHIO MAYOR CONTINUES BOYCOTT: “NO POLICE TRAINING IN MARICOPA COUNTY” *CITES SHERIFF ARPAIO’S STAND ON 1070 AS REASON***

November 2nd, 2011

**(Maricopa County, AZ.)** Long after the implementation of SB 1070, Arizona’s controversial immigration law, there remain repercussions affecting travel by governmental officials to the Grand Canyon State.

A shocking example of this came to Sheriff Joe Arpaio this week when he was told by his deputies that police officers from Columbus, Ohio were refused permission by that city’s Mayor to travel to Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to train with the Drug Recognition Unit here, known as one of the best drug recognition training programs in the world.

Columbus Mayor, Michael Coleman, disagrees with Arpaio’s stand on illegal immigration and was part of the boycott Arizona movement popular after the July 29, 2010 implementation of the law.

The Police Department in Columbus was to send three officers for the training, taking place today. One officer adhered to the Mayor’s directive, another opted for training in California but the third officer came despite the Mayor’s order, taking personal vacation time just to get the training he wanted.

Mayor Coleman made it very clear to the Columbus Police Department that he did not want anyone in city government to go to Arizona specifically because of the Sheriff’s position on illegal immigration. Coleman was apparently very public in his disdain for the immigration law and was an open supporter of the boycott of Arizona happening around the nation surrounding the implementation SB1070.

Arpaio says the Coleman is wrong to place his personal philosophies above public safety in his community.

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“How could any Mayor turn down the chance for his police officers to be instructed by the very best trainers in the country, all because he, as one individual, did not support Arizona’s immigration law?” Arpaio asks. “Personal feelings and political philosophies should never outweigh public safety.”

Director of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, Alberto Gutier which funds this training program agrees with Arpaio adding, “Maricopa County Sheriff Offices Drug Recognition Training is the premiere program of its kind in the country. Any other mayor would be thrilled to send police officers to receive the kind of training they provide.”

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Drug Recognition training program is the recipient of several national awards and its chief trainer, Sheriff’s Sergeant Paul White, is a nationally acclaimed expert in drug recognition. Police officers from as far away as England, Germany, Australia as well as Canada and 37 states in this country have been trained here.

To prove the Mayor wrong, Arpaio says he is considering offering an invitation to Mayor Coleman or his designee to visit Tent City where 150 illegal immigrants are housed and to go on a ride-along with deputies during and illegal immigrations/ crime suppression operation such as an employee sanction or human smuggling case. Arpaio’s illegal immigration enforcement has resulted in 50,000 immigration investigations on the streets and in the jails. END

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