

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 29, 2009

CON RAIL HAS BEEN DERAILED...

***THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE GOES BACK TO DOING
BUSINESS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY***

(Phoenix, AZ.) Two days after the first inmate was personally transported by Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his deputies on the valley's new light rail system, Sheriff Arpaio says Phoenix city officials have come up with a solution to cut short the controversy and satisfy the Sheriff's Office.

The city has graciously given four free parking passes to enable the Sheriff's extradition unit to conduct business without incurring any more parking expenses.

"Utilizing the light rail would have been a viable and safe alternative for transporting inmates," Arpaio says. "Since the city has been kind enough to issue free parking, we will go back to transporting inmates the way we used to, for now."

Sheriff Arpaio began using the light rail on Tuesday as a means to save money during the county budget crisis.

Arpaio says that he does not see a future need to use light rail for inmate transport. But, since it has been deemed workable and successful, he will keep it on the table as a transportation option.

Today will be the last time an inmate will be transported on light rail, Arpaio says, unless an unforeseen situation occurs in the future and light rail use becomes necessary again.

The City of Phoenix took away the Sheriff's free airport parking for inmate extradition in July 2007, explaining that it was too costly to provide free parking.

"I appreciate the cooperation we have received by the city of Phoenix to alleviate this light rail controversy," Arpaio says.

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News Release

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