

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

March 29, 2008

A News Brief from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office:

(Phoenix, Arizona) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office concluded its successful Bell Road Crime Suppression program late yesterday evening.

During yesterday's operational period, Sheriff's deputies and posse members arrested 32 suspects. Of the 32 arrested, 15 are suspected of being in the United States illegally. Also, nine of the 15 were booked on state charges. U.S. citizens arrested totaled 17.

The two-day Bell Road Operation yielded 53 suspects taken into custody, 27 of which were illegally in the country. The remaining 26 arrests were U.S. citizens. The offenses ranged from traffic offenses, outstanding warrants, attempted escape, and disorderly conduct.

This is the second two-day, crime suppression operation lead by Sheriff Arpaio within a week. Each publicly scrutinized operation was the result of community members crying out for the Sheriff's assistance in fighting crime. The first operation was held in the 32nd Street and Thomas area.

In the total of 18 hours of operation across both programs, Sheriff's deputies and posse members made 109 arrests. Of those arrested, 66 were suspected of being in the United States illegally (approximately 60 percent). The remaining arrests were U.S. citizens.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio called the crime suppression programs successful and vowed to continue the operations in the future.

"I will not be deterred by Phoenix City Mayor Phil Gordon's demeaning comments," says the Sheriff. "Gordon does not want me to enforce the state and federal immigration laws in the City of Phoenix, clearly this is a sanctuary policy."

Arpaio added that his deputies would continue to enforce all aspects of the state and federal immigration laws, including violations of the new state employer's sanctions law in the work place.

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