

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: May 9 2008

### **SHERIFF'S SEVEN MONTH LONG INVESTIGATION ON RAPPER/ACTOR DMX ENDS IN ARREST**

(Phoenix, AZ) After a seven month long investigation, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says the famed rapper/actor known as DMX (Dark Man X) was arrested hours ago at his home in Cave Creek pursuant to indictments on seven (7) misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty and four (4) felony drug possession charges.

During the 3 AM search warrant conducted today by Sheriff's detectives at the rappers home, a number of weapons and drugs were seized, resulting in additional charges of drug possession. According to the tactical unit, DMX attempted to barricade himself in his bedroom at the time of the search warrant but eventually came out, offered no further resistance, and was booked into Fourth Avenue Jail.

Deputies also found five pit bull mix puppies at the rapper's home. They were taken by Sheriff's animal cruelty unit specialists to the First Avenue Jail where they will remain under the care of female inmates.

In addition, Sheriff's deputies are currently serving a search warrant on the Mayo Clinic at 56 Street and Mayo Drive in Scottsdale pertaining to a potential fraud scheme involving the rapper. No further details are available at this time.

Sheriff Arpaio says his animal cruelty deputies were tenacious in their investigation of DMX.

Arpaio adds, "A guy like this DMX character with all his money and fame has no excuse for not providing proper care for his animals."

County Attorney Andrew Thomas whose office will prosecute DMX considers animal

News Release

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cruelty charges as serious violations of the law as well.

“A person’s celebrity status does not preclude this office from bringing charges against a defendant. We are handling this case as we would any other incident of alleged animal cruelty,” Thomas says.

DMX rose to fame in 1990’s having had five consecutive number #1 albums on the Billboard 200 charts. He has also appeared in small roles in a number of films. By recording industry standards, DMX is considered one of the best selling rappers of all time.

Earl Simmons, his birth name, (12/18/70) was investigated by the Sheriff’s Office beginning last summer after numerous complaints came in concerning neglected animals on his property at 2708 East Carlise Road in Cave Creek, north of Phoenix. After attempts to contact Simmons failed, Sheriff’s detectives obtained a search warrant on the address in August 2007.

During that search warrant, 12 dogs (pit bull mixes) were removed and taken to an emergency veterinarian where they were treated for malnutrition and dehydration. In addition, the carcasses of three other dogs were found partially buried on the property. One of the dogs may have been burned. Inside the home, detectives found drugs, drug paraphernalia, weapons and ammunition.

“He has a long criminal history and obviously has little or no respect for the law,” Arpaio says.

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