

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### **D.O.J. DISMISSES LAWSUIT AGAINST SHERIFF ARPAIO**

### **PRONOUNCEMENT THAT NO DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES EXIST UNLIKELY IN CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE, ARPAIO PREDICTS**

(Phoenix, AZ) A two year long dispute between the federal government and the fourth largest Sheriff's Office in the United States came to an end this week when U.S. District Court Judge Murray Snow dismissed a federal lawsuit against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his office.

That federal suit was filed on September 2, 2010, approximately 18 months after Sheriff's Office officials became aware that Homeland Security and Department of Justice personnel were inappropriately sharing information gleaned in separate private meetings with Sheriff's Office officials.

That violation of trust resulted in the Sheriff's Office's reluctance to provide unfettered access to office policies, records, personnel and documents with federal authorities until such time that DOJ officials agreed to explain the nature and focus of their purported investigation and its scope.

The federal government contends that Arpaio never offered any level of cooperation before the lawsuit; that is untrue. Appropriate cooperation, along with the rightful questioning of the scope and propriety of the DOJ's investigation occurred before the lawsuit. Arpaio justifiably wanted the federal government to clearly state what it was here to investigate before he provided more information to federal officials.

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**From the first meetings between our two agencies, federal officials made vague and overly broad demands for access, records and documents, Arpaio said.**

**“Our legal counsel advised us that the DOJ requests were out of line and the scope was far too unreasonable under applicable federal law,” Arpaio said.**

**As tempers cooled, DOJ officials revised their request for records, agreeing to clarify and narrow the scope of information they were seeking.**

**“It took some time for the ill will and mistrust between my organization and the DOJ to dissipate,” Sheriff Joe Arpaio said in a press conference today. “But when it did, both sides worked quickly and smoothly to resolve our differences and get this lawsuit over with.”**

**Arpaio points out that the genesis for this lawsuit was a predetermination by federal officials that the Sheriff's Office practiced racial profiling in policing and racial discrimination in the jails. The DOJ has been examining those issues now for nearly three years and despite the many personal pleas from political critics, including some locally elected officials, to find such practices, no evidence has proved forthcoming.**

**“I’m absolutely confident that the federal government’s investigation will not find any proof of a pattern and practice of discrimination by my office,” Arpaio says. “I hope that the current administration has the courage and integrity to put those findings and conclusions in writing or publicly declare them as a fact. But sadly, that isn’t likely, at least by the current administration. Politically, they would like to have this investigation hanging over my head until the next election.”**

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