

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 29, 2009

ARPAIO TO DHS SECRETARY NAPOLITANO “FED’S CONDUCT IN SUPPRESSION OPERATION WAS DECEPTIVE- I’M DISAPPOINTED”

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio today had his Washington D.C. based attorney, Robert Driscoll, delivered a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano which outlined the bad faith conduct displayed by Homeland Security authorities during last weekend's local crime suppression operation in the East Valley of Maricopa County. (Letter attached)

The three day long operation netted 74 arrests including 10 admitted illegal aliens who the Sheriff said should have been arrested and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for immigration violations. Instead, federal officials forced the Sheriff’s Office to release the arrestees back onto the streets and refused custody of the 10 illegal aliens arrested by deputies.

ICE's refusal to accept custody of these illegal immigrants was in blatant violation of the existing 287G agreement that Sheriff Arpaio and his deputies have operated under since 2007.

While a new 287G agreement from Washington is currently under review by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arpaio was personally assured on July 10th via telephone by the Assistant Secretary for ICE in Washington D.C. that the current 287G agreement would continue.

During the operation, Arpaio's attorney’s letter says, the Department of Homeland Security in Washington changed the rules of the agreement. That forced Sheriff’s deputies to release those arrested for federal immigration violations. The Department of Homeland Security then publicly and falsely stated that it was Arpaio - not ICE -

News Release

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who decided to release the illegal aliens arrested in the operation back out to the community. The Sheriff's Office has a word for word record of those conversations with ICE officials.

"Our conversations with the federal authorities telling us we had to release these law breakers back to the streets are a matter of record," Arpaio says.

The recent crime suppression operation was the tenth of its kind. The nine previous operations have netted 478 arrests including 249 illegal aliens. Of those 249 illegal aliens arrested, 110 were arrested on state illegal immigration charges and 139 were arrested under the same 287g agreement that refused last weekend's 10 arrestees by ICE trained deputies.

Arpaio says "I feel that this change in direction with the aim toward amnesty by the federal government seems to be politically motivated by the Obama Administration and is not in the best interest of the citizens of Maricopa County."

Arpaio says he will continue to fight illegal immigration in Maricopa County as he has done since 160 of his deputies and officers were trained by ICE to enforce both the federal and state immigration laws.

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