

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: March 12, 2008

### Sheriff Investigates Employer Sanctions Violations

#### Six Arrested in Four Separate Investigations

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio announced today the arrests of six suspects as Sheriff's deputies investigated tips from the Sheriff's Illegal Immigration Hotline (602.876.4154) regarding violations of the Arizona Employer Sanctions statute.

Sheriff's deputies arrested the six illegal immigrants for a variety of charges in four separate investigations.

Yesterday, a letter sent to Sheriff Arpaio listing five specific suspects using fraudulent documents to gain employment at Royal Paper Converting (Phoenix, Arizona) lead to three arrests.

During the criminal investigation, company management provided deputies access to the specific employment records. Investigators determined the five suspects had provided false social security numbers and false alien registration numbers. Margarita Jurado Armostegui (DOB 07/10/75) and Anavelia Ocana (DOB 07/13/69) were arrested and booked into the Maricopa County Jail for forgery and taking the identity of another; follow-up investigation lead to the arrest of Guadalupe Patricia Bravo-Ramirez (DOB 06/11/86) on charges of forgery charges and identity theft.

On February 1, 2008, a detailed and specific Hotline tip regarding an illegal alien employed at the Sienna Villa apartments (Glendale, Arizona) was received. A preliminary criminal investigation was initiated. Sheriff's investigators contacted Ramon Perales-Pimiento (DOB 03/18/76), who freely admitted to being in the United States illegally. Perales told deputies that he had utilized fraudulent documents to obtain employment with the complex several years earlier. No wrongdoing was attributed to the complex or their now defunct employment agency. Perales was processed and turned over to federal immigration officials pending an ongoing criminal investigation.

On February 11, 2008, a Hotline tip regarding a specific individual using fraudulent documents to gain employment at Royal Paper Converting (Phoenix, Arizona) was received. During the criminal investigation, Sandra Laura Ortega-Morales (DOB 10/19/74) was contacted and identified as an illegal alien. Ortega was arrested after it was learned she utilizing another person's identity, a fraudulent alien registration number, and using a fake social security number.

News Release

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On March 4, 2008, an anonymous complaint called in tip information regarding illegal aliens employed at the Native New Yorker restaurant in Chandler, Arizona. Sheriff's detectives were provided consent and access to employment records. Review of the employment records for three individuals identified by the anonymous caller determined two former employees had used false documentation to gain employment. During the investigation, deputies contacted Arnoldo Cervantes (DOB 04/29/84), who admitted freely admitted being in the U.S. illegally. Cervantes informed investigators he had purchased fraudulent documents, including a false social security number, to gain employment at the Native New Yorker. Cervantes is in the custody of federal immigration officials pending further criminal investigation.

Sheriff Arpaio compliments the businesses for providing information to his Office and encourages continued cooperation.

"My office will continue to act on information received on the Illegal Immigration Hotline (602.876.4154) regarding criminal activity in the work place, which could lead to violations of the employer sanction law," says Arpaio.

Arpaio has long promised to crack down on illegal immigration in Maricopa County. Nearly two years ago, the Sheriff formed a special anti-smuggling unit now consisting of 160 federal immigration trained Sheriff officers. Also, the Sheriff has enlisted the help of citizens & his volunteer posse members to be on the look out for illegal immigrants.

The Sheriff's Office arrests illegal aliens for criminal violations of the law, including all aspects of the Arizona human smuggling law, federal immigration laws and now the employer sanctions law.

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