

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



June 21, 2011

SHERIFF ARPAIO SAYS HIS OFFICE IS ENJOYING 'EXCEPTIONAL TIMES'

(Phoenix, AZ) From clandestine crime operations on drug cartels to several court room victories; from successful crime suppression/illegal immigration arrests and budget triumphs to ferreting out corruption committed by officers inside his own office, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says that contrary to conventional wisdom, this is shaping up to be an excellent quarter for the valley's second largest law enforcement agency.

"I know the headlines portray a different picture," Arpaio says. "but from my perspective, there has been several victories and triumphs for this Office."

Arpaio cites as proof:

*undercover operation conducted by the Sheriff's Office netted 61 indictments against prison gang members operating a criminal enterprise from inside AZ jails/prisons; after a year long undercover operation, three of the Sheriff's own employees were arrested for colluding with members of an international drug cartel in a criminal syndicate that also resulted in the seizure of 10 pounds of heroin; the 20 year old mystery case of the Rock burglar who stole upwards of \$10 million dollars worth of jewels ended when Sheriff's deputies arrested 51 year old Robert Neese; 22 others were arrested last week in an international drug ring responsible for the distribution of thousands of pounds of marijuana using UPS/FED EX trucks.

News Release

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*the courtroom victories include the May decision regarding New Times vs Arpaio in which a judge ruled that the Sheriff did not violate anyone's constitutional rights during the arrest of the paper's two editors; yesterday's ruling wherein a judge said the Sheriff is not in violation of AZ public records laws by not yet releasing a media demanded unredacted version of the Pinal County investigation; also in May, the US Supreme Court upheld the AZ employer sanctions law which Arpaio's deputies have been enforcing for the last several years; and the June announcement by the US Dept of Justice indicting the impending dismissal of its lawsuit against the Sheriff regarding racial profiling.

*The Sheriff's Operation Desert Sky and other crime suppression/illegal immigration and human smuggling operations netted over 550 arrests of illegal immigrants since March

*A much improved relationship with the county resulted in \$250 million being given to the Sheriff's Office for capital improvement projects to enhance public safety including a much needed new 911 emergency call center and centralized headquarters building

*the cross funding issue of \$99.5 million dollars was put to rest yesterday when the board voted to move funds from one source to another to cover the payroll discrepancy thus avoiding a tax hike or any disruption of county services

“All these things underscore the fact that my deputies and officers and command staff are doing excellent work in every area of this office – from crime to fiscal management and from jail operations to personnel issues...across the board the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is a stellar operation,” Arpaio says. END

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