

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 3, 2008

SHERIFF'S CRIME SUPPRESSION OPERATION MOVES TO GUADALUPE

TOWN OFFICIALS SAY TENSIONS ARE ESCALATING BETWEEN ILLEGAL ALIENS AND TOWN RESIDENTS

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says his crime suppression operation, which utilizes both deputies and volunteer posse members, will be in the town of Guadalupe and the immediate surrounding areas of Phoenix and Tempe beginning today, Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Recently, Guadalupe has seen escalating tensions between illegal aliens and town residents. Several violent crimes have occurred there in recent months which involve illegal aliens including three serious aggravated assaults with deadly weapons and an armed robbery.

The Sheriff's Crime Suppression Operation has just concluded a controversial program in the Cave Creek Road and Bell Road area of Phoenix. This same group of Sheriff's law enforcement professionals conducted a similar operation recently in central Phoenix near 32nd Street and Thomas. The two operations netted a total of 165 arrests, 79 (or 49%) of who were determined to be illegal aliens. The remaining were U.S. citizens. Several felony warrants were cleared in the operation as well, the Sheriff says.

"Mayor Gordon's speech on March 28, 2008, before a Caesar Chavez luncheon crowd and to the local media have not only insulted me and my organization, but have denigrated every person in the community who is opposed to illegal immigration," Arpaio says. "He must know he is out of touch with his constituency. And he is out of touch with his own police department that wants to fight the illegal immigration problem on all levels. It seems Mayor Gordon is in damage control mode accusing me of retaliation. But enforcing all the laws of Arizona is not retaliation and that's precisely what I will continue to do." MORE

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

Because of bombastic remarks made by Activist Alfredo Gutierrez on a local Hispanic radio station, Arpaio says his deputies and posse volunteers are on full alert.

Gutierrez gave a message to the Sheriff on his talk show (KNAI 88.3FM).

He said, "In the future you are not going to do these operations without a fight. Our community is going to take a direct action against you. We don't want to put anybody at risk but you, Sheriff. You are putting us in danger with these unconstitutional operations that are from a Nazi world. If you do it again there is going to be more people, more resistance, everywhere you go, we are going to be there."

Arpaio says that neither Gutierrez, his activist friends, or the Mayor of Phoenix will intimidate him. He will continue to enforce the law.

The new operation will begin at 4PM on Thursday, April 2, 2008 with a briefing to the posse and deputies by the Sheriff. The Sheriff's command post and jail wagons will be located on Guadalupe Road east of Avenida Del Yaqui, Guadalupe.

For more information, contact the Sheriff's Media Relations Unit at SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov .

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