

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: December 21, 2010

INMATES SING FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Caroling Contest Earns Inmates a Real Holiday Dinner

(Phoenix, AZ) In a move likely to make Ebenezer Scrooge smile, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio will hold a caroling contest for interested pre-trial inmates where the winner will receive a real Christmas dinner for himself and his cell mates. Inmates who plan to participate in the sing off are held on charges ranging from **burglary and DUI to murder**.

The contest will be held inside the Fourth Avenue Jail 2nd floor chapel on **Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 1:30pm**.

About 50 pre-trial detainees signed up for the sing off. Ten finalists were chosen by Sheriff's detention staff. Four women and six men made it to the finals. Each inmate must sing a well known Christmas carol. Some will sing acapella, others will have musical tracks to accompany their voices.

Judges include the Sheriff, Santa Claus, and Elfis, the singing detention officer, who will also perform "*I'll have a blue Christmas without you*".

The winner will receive a full turkey dinner with all the real trimmings for himself (herself) and the entire housing unit to be served on December 24th. The scheduled holiday meal being served to the 8,000 inmates vaguely resembles an average Christmas meal but is put together using donated food. The annual holiday meal usually runs only about 14 cents each.

Conversely, the meal that will be won by the top inmate singer will be a real full off-the-bone turkey, real mashed potatoes, and Christmas cookies – a treat not usually served in Sheriff Arpaio's tough but humane jail system.

And in true holiday spirit, the Sheriff has asked that the top three inmate winners who will be awarded a Christmas stocking full of canteen goodies donate their winnings to a charity of their choice. All agreed to do so.

The show will also be videotaped by Sheriff's staff and shown to the whole inmate population on Christmas day.

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