

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 20, 2007

SHERIFF'S CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HEATS UP

Hundreds of deputies/volunteer posse targeting profile vehicles

ARPAIO OPENS HOTLINE FOR CITIZENS TO REPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS

(Phoenix, AZ.) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who has been at the forefront of the fight against illegal immigration during the past two years with a work force of 4,000 employees, announced an expanded and concentrated crackdown on the problem on Friday, July 20, 2007 at his Tent City Jail.

Arpaio said more than 200 armed Sheriff's deputies, reserves and volunteer posse along with the full resources of the Sheriff's Office including SWAT, aviation, electronic surveillance, night vision, and hi tech weaponry, will saturate valley cities as well as roadways and highways commonly used as transportation corridors for human trafficking.

Sheriff's personnel will be targeting vehicles commonly used to move human cargo to destinations inside and outside the county. If a vehicle is stopped for cause, anyone inside who is determined to be an illegal alien by the Sheriff's immigration trained experts will be arrested and jailed.

Other facts and aspects to the Sheriff's intensified operation include:

*160 immigration trained deputies and officers, the largest compliment in the United States, will now be out en masse to enforce both the state and federal anti illegal immigration laws which allows them to arrest and jail anyone stopped for cause and determined to be in the county illegally

News Release

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* Under a relatively new Arizona state law, 614 illegal aliens have been arrested on felony charges by the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff is the only Arizona law enforcement agency enforcing all aspects of this new law. Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas is greatly complimented for successfully prosecuting these cases, surpassing a 90 percent conviction rate.

* 64 ICE agents will be added to the Sheriff's anti illegal immigration fight when they are deputized by the Sheriff next week, allowing them to perform as Sheriff's deputies

* Arpaio announced a dedicated hotline for citizens to call in with information or evidence about illegal aliens. That number is 602 876 4154 and will be monitored by Sheriff's deputies who will follow up on information received

* To publicize that number, Arpaio will have Sheriff's trucks outfitted with "No Illegal Entry - Help Sheriff Joe Arpaio Fight Illegal Immigration" signs on all sides of the vehicle. These vehicles will be driven on valley streets and roadways to familiarize the public with the hotline number.

* The Sheriff is also recruiting officers from local and national police agencies who are frustrated by their department's refusal to actively fight illegal immigration. Arpaio has erected a sign above the downtown Maricopa County jailhouse entrance where every officer brings in those arrested. The sign offers officers lateral transfers and the chance to join an agency that is actively working to end illegal immigration.

“We are quickly becoming a full fledged anti illegal immigration agency,” Arpaio says. “In the jails and on the streets, we have our employees trained and anxious to make a large dent in the illegal immigration problem. We have heard the people speak, we understand their frustration and will continue to do all that we can to reduce the number of illegal aliens making their way into the United States and Maricopa County.”

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