

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 15, 2007

### SHERIFF'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FIGHT EXPANDS INTO THE CITY OF MESA

**(Phoenix, AZ)** Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Illegal Immigration Interdiction (Triple I) Unit arrested nine more suspected illegal aliens in the city of Mesa this morning. The arrests were made in the area of Stapley and Main streets.

This series of arrests in the East Valley is the first conducted by the Sheriff's Triple I Unit in Mesa. Sheriff's deputies arrested the nine under state and federal statutes, including two illegals on drug possession charges and another wanted on an outstanding warrant.

The drug charges stem from a drug transaction observed by undercover Sheriff's deputies.

Sheriff Arpaio says, "The Mesa Police Chief, who states he will not enforce immigration laws, has stated that statistics do not support the fact that illegal aliens commit a large amount of crime. However, the county jail population figures paint a different picture. The nine we arrested today not only broke the law by being here illegally, but were also in position of an illicit drug, which is a felony."

Arpaio's Office remains the only Arizona law enforcement agency arresting and jailing violators of the state and federal immigration laws, including human smugglers and their co-conspirators. A total of 160 Sheriff's deputies and officer have received federal immigration training in order to act as federal immigration officials and enforce federal immigration law.

"My deputies have and will continue to enforce state and federal immigration laws across this entire county, including the city of Phoenix, and now Mesa," says Sheriff Arpaio. "I will not be deterred by a group who announced two weeks ago that they want to recall me because I am enforcing the illegal immigration laws."

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News Release

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