

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 26, 2007

ARPAIO WANTS COPS *WILLING* TO FIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PROBLEM

JAILHOUSE BANNER ENCOURAGES POLICE TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THOSE ARRESTING AND BOOKING ILLEGALS

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says he believes a number of police officers in this country feel “hogtied” by their agency’s policies on arresting and booking illegal immigrants and is encouraging them to join his agency where the “cuffs are off” and deputies are free to enforce the state and federal anti illegal immigration laws.

Today at 4 PM Arpaio will unveil a huge banner hung above the intake door of the Sheriff’s 4th Avenue Jail (4th Avenue and Madison, downtown Phoenix) where all valley law enforcement officers come to book their arrestees. The sign invites police to join Arpaio’s fight against illegal immigration and tempts them with the promise of lateral transfers.

“We’ve got deputy positions we want filled. I know there are plenty of officers who are frustrated by the lack of commitment their departments have towards this illegal immigration problem,” Arpaio says. “I am encouraging them to join the fight by joining us.”

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office is the only Arizona law enforcement agency enforcing all aspects of the Arizona human smuggling laws. Already 160 Sheriff’s officers have been cross trained by the federal agency known as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Sheriff’s deputies are now enforcing the federal immigration laws as well.

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A number of police from departments such as Peoria, Scottsdale, Youngstown, El Mirage, Tempe, and Phoenix have applied with the Sheriff this year and are now in process of being hired. Already in the last several months, 14 have been hired including a number of former deputy sheriffs who left for other higher paying valley police departments and have returned to the Sheriff's Office.

"We aren't the highest paying agency in the valley," Arpaio says, "so I am honored that many are returning to us or choosing to be a Maricopa County Sheriff's deputy."

The Sheriff surmises that it may be job diversity that is encouraging an increase in applicants or the fact that we give independent discretion to our deputy sheriffs or that we are a controversial agency with unique law enforcement programs.

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