



## Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

*Joe Arpaio*  
*Sheriff*

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March 31, 2008

Frank Fairbanks, City Manager  
Phoenix City Hall  
200 W. Washington Street, 12th floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Mr. Fairbanks,

Since you supervise the Phoenix Police Department, and because there has been a great deal of controversy between the Mayor and my office, I wish to clarify some of the inaccurate statements made by your Mayor both in the media and at the Caesar Chavez luncheon last week. Many of those statements refer to a lack of cooperation and coordination between your police department and my agency.

As you know, almost one year ago to the day, I made the decision to use 160 deputies and officers trained by ICE to be proactive in the fight against illegal immigration.

I have assigned 60 detention officers who assist Phoenix Police by identifying illegal aliens arrested by your officers as they are being booked in jail. The 287-G program, as it is known, has so far resulted in over 11,000 immigration holds.

Furthermore, Sheriff's deputies are voluntarily taking the place of your police officers by testifying at mandated court hearings to hold serious felony offenders in jail without bond. This saved Phoenix police officers literally thousands of man hours.

I am shocked and extremely disappointed that Police Chief Jack Harris has contacted high federal officials stating it is his intention to ask Washington D.C. to withdraw our immigration authority. It appears the Police Chief is in collusion with Mayor Phil Gordon, both of whom have publicly stated they are against my immigration policies.

Gordon has told citizens and the media that my office has not coordinated our recent crime suppression operations with the Phoenix Police. He claimed that my operation posed serious danger to "undercover officers and federal agents."

We have written proof that our commanders notified Phoenix Police officials about these operations days before they occurred. Gordon's claim that officers were put in danger by my

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operation is directly contrary to the communiqué received by my office indicating that Phoenix Police had no “special needs which required being addressed.” Mayor Gordon’s remarks were not only patently false; they instilled fear and acrimony in the community he serves.

If the Mayor really desires coordination and cooperation with this Sheriff’s Office, I would welcome his assistance in enforcing our policies in all aspects of the illegal immigration laws.

Since you are the chief executive responsible for law enforcement and public safety in Phoenix, you must be as concerned as I am that Mayor Gordon’s public and inflammatory remarks may, in fact, cause civil disobedience in this community.

Hours before the Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> operation at 32 Street and Bell Road, Gordon spoke before hundreds of people and claimed a neo-Nazi was behind the business people’s request for assistance there and that the Sheriff’s Office only locks up brown skinned people with broken tail lights. He ended his speech by calling on everyone to speak out (against me and my deputies) and make their voices heard.

Those statements created a larger, angrier protest group and resulted in a hostile encounter between the opposing sides and a more hostile environment for my deputies who were enforcing the law.

I want to be clear on one fact: this Sheriff fully intends to continue his duty to enforce the laws of Arizona and of the constitution of the United States. I will not be swayed by political agendas or hyperbole.

You and I have been professional associates for many years and I deeply respect your leadership abilities and sense of professionalism. I also understand you are in a difficult position as you supervise Phoenix Police Chief Jack Harris and are appointed to your position by the city council which includes the Mayor.

But let me say this in closing. Every day this Sheriff’s Office voluntarily provides many unique services to the Phoenix Police Department. What we do saves your officers thousands of man-hours and allows them to go back onto the streets to fight crime. I am very concerned that this negative and misleading rhetoric by Mayor Gordon and other elected officials is seriously deteriorating our excellent and long standing relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph M. Arpaio'. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Joseph M. Arpaio, Sheriff  
Maricopa County