

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



SHERIFF ARPAIO TOUTS SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY MALL PATROL WITH ALL VOLUNTEER POSSE

(Maricopa County, Arizona) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has successfully completed its 19th year of Mall Patrols with the volunteer posse. The concept of the all-volunteer mall patrol began in 1993 by Sheriff Arpaio. Every year, hundreds of men and women from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse volunteer their time during the hectic holiday season to keep local malls safe and secure from opportunistic criminals who attempt to take advantage of the busy malls and parking lots.

During this year's operation, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Posse accounted for nearly 3,200 man hours, all at no cost to tax payers. During those man hours, Posse members contacted 8,462 people (up 30% from 2010), made 16 arrests, recovered over \$8,300 in stolen property from shoplifters and thieves, found \$332 dollars in property and returned it to their owners, and assisted in 318 incidents with other agencies.

Sheriff Arpaio said that the mall patrols began in 1993 in response to a number of violent crimes that occurred at local shopping malls during the holiday season. In the wake of many published violent disturbances happening in shopping centers around the nation this year, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is pleased to report that no similar events took place under their watch this year.

Especially during a time of economic hardships endured by many, Sheriff Arpaio feels the citizens of Maricopa County should not have the added worry of their vehicles being broken into or being robbed.

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