

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 4, 2011

### Sheriff Arpaio Warns Uniformed Personnel to Use Caution at McDonald's Restaurants

(Phoenix, AZ) Late yesterday, after a uniformed deputy was verbally harassed by food handlers speaking in Spanish at a Mesa restaurant, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio issued an office wide warning suggesting that his deputies and officers, when identifiable as a Sheriff's employee by marked car or uniform, be careful when eating at McDonald's restaurants.

The District 1 deputy informed his supervisor that he had ordered a lunchtime meal at the McDonald's located at 1460 West Southern in Mesa when a number of food handlers saw him in his Sheriff's uniform and started verbally abusing him and the Sheriff's Office in general, calling him and Sheriff Arpaio (expletive) racists.

The deputy, who speaks Spanish, confronted the workers about their remarks, then refused to accept the food as a precaution and later reported the incident not only to the Sheriff but to McDonald's corporate headquarters.

According to Arpaio, this particular McDonalds restaurant was the target of an employer sanctions investigation by his Office on March 26, 2010 where four illegal immigrants were arrested for identification theft. Three other nearby McDonald's businesses were also tied into that same investigation where 13 other illegal aliens were arrested.

"I am not asking my employees to avoid McDonalds completely," says Sheriff Arpaio. "But I do think that anytime one of them is in uniform or driving a marked vehicle, out of an abundance of caution, he or she should use some discretion when deciding where to eat."

In a separate investigation yesterday, Arpaio's deputies conducted the Office's 41st criminal employment/identification theft case on a central Phoenix construction business called Great Western Erectors. A total of eight employees were arrested for identification theft.

So far, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has conducted 41 I.D theft business raids resulting in a total of 462 arrests.

News Release

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