

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: March 8, 2011

### **SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES CONTINUE SEARCH FOR PEI WEI RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES USING FALSE IDENTIFICATION**

*Sheriff Arpaio confident that workplace enforcement  
beneficial to Americans as unemployment rises*

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's detectives continued searching for Pei Wei employees throughout the weekend and early this week after their raid on five separate locations last week that landed 27 employees arrested for using false identification to gain employment. It was further discovered that all 27 suspects arrested were determined to be in the country illegally.

To date, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has conducted 43 workplace investigations resulting in the arrest of 465 illegal aliens, 319 of which were arrested and booked for identity theft, a class four felony in Arizona.

Similar to the previous 42 investigations of businesses by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office's, detectives are following through with information obtained as a result of the search warrants from last Friday by visiting over 40 more locations in search of additional suspects.

Deputies were originally after 120 employees suspected of using false identification to gain employment. The investigation has led Sheriff's deputies to other Pei Wei restaurants as well as last known addresses for remaining employee suspects.

According to Sheriff's investigators many of the suspect's addresses listed in their employment files were false and some of the residences appeared to be recently abandoned possibly as a result of the investigation.

**100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003**

**Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081**

**Media Contact: [MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)**

Sheriff's detectives determined that of the 140 victims nationwide identified in the Pei Wei case, eight were under the age of 12, and four were deceased.

During Friday's raid, Sheriff Joe Arpaio was the receiver of some harsh criticism from passers by and customers that were unhappy with the popular restaurant temporarily being shut down. Many supporters of Sheriff Arpaio's policies also stopped to shake his hand and thank him for the job he is doing.

Sheriff Arpaio says, "How would these critics feel if it were their identity that was stolen in this situation? Maybe we should ask the 140 victims in this case how they feel about what were doing here."

Sheriff Arpaio constantly contends to critics that he feels he should be receiving an award rather than being criticized and questioned for enforcing laws that directly have a positive impact on putting legal residents of the country back to work.

During the Friday raid of the restaurant located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Glendale in Phoenix, one patron took full advantage in the sudden drop in over 50% of the on duty staff by immediately asking for a job application.

Immediately following the Sheriff's raid on Friday, Pei Wei Asian Diner took out a full page advertisement in the Sunday edition of the local Arizona Republic seeking applicants for all 16 Valley locations of their business.

**100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003**  
**Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081**  
**Media Contact: [MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)**