

***Maricopa County Sheriff's Office***  
***Joe Arpaio, Sheriff***  
***News Brief***

*April 14, 2008*

***Sheriff's Prop. 100 Interviews Surpasses 62,000***

*(Phoenix, AZ)* Nearly one year ago to the day, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio began investigating the immigration status of those arrested and booked into the county jail. Since then Sheriff's officers have interviewed over 62,000 prisoners and placed nearly 15,600 immigration holds on those determined to be in the United States illegally.

Arrestees who are interviewed and determined to be in the U.S. illegally have immigration detainers placed on them. This number mirrors the average daily population of illegal aliens in the jails. Currently, the illegal alien population comprises about 25% of the 9,300 inmates in Arpaio's custody.

The Sheriff has come under criticism by Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon. Gordon is attacking the Sheriff's proactive policies in enforcing state and federal illegal immigration laws. The Maricopa County Sheriff's office has conducted crime suppression operations in the city of Phoenix, as well as the rest of Maricopa County.

Gordon wrote to the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. attacking Sheriff Arpaio, alleging wrong doing, and asking for a federal investigation. The mayor has unjustly attacked the Sheriff's immigration trained law enforcement officers by claiming they are stopping individuals on minor traffic violations for nothing more than the color of their skin.

Gordon has been strangely silent about Jose Sanchez Villanueva (DOB 5/22/83), a Mexican citizen illegally in the United States. Sanchez struck and killed a mother and her unborn child on April 8, 2008 in West Phoenix. Sanchez has been booked into Maricopa County jail on charges for murder, fleeing the scene of the alcohol-related fatal collision, a weapons charge and multiple outstanding, traffic warrants. Maricopa County Sheriff's officers investigated Sanchez's immigration status as a result of his arrest.

Sheriff's federal immigration trained officers verified Jose Sanchez had been deported at least four times from the U.S.

Commenting on the tragic death of the mother and unborn child, Sheriff Arpaio stated, "We are called law enforcement for a reason, we enforce the law. Evidently, Mayor Gordon does not understand good law enforcement techniques. Maybe if my deputies and my posse were operating in that area of Phoenix that day these innocent lives could have been saved."

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