

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 19, 2011

SHERIFF ARPAIO OFFERS SECURITY TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN MARICOPA COUNTY

(Phoenix, AZ) In the aftermath of last Saturday's horrific events in Tucson, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio today contacted several public officials who serve the citizens of Maricopa County and offered them free protection services by his volunteer armed posse members.

Arpaio, who formed the nation's largest volunteer posse, has over 330 men and women who have been instructed in defense tactics and weapons training. They routinely provide extra security services to several major events and to shoppers at the malls during the holiday shopping season.

Arpaio says he is offering the posse's services to public officials as a deterrent to any attacks.

"An armed and uniformed presence could very well be a visual deterrent to a potential assailant," Arpaio says. "And while I do not believe that everyone with a gun who is determined to do serious harm can always be stopped, law enforcement must do whatever it can to protect the public and our public officials in any way possible."

Arpaio's letter was sent to the leadership members of Arizona House of Representatives, Arizona State Senate, as well as members of the U.S. Congress, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Superior Court Judges. Armed posse personnel will be made available to them during public speeches or events, if requested. (see sample letter attached)

Arpaio also offered his deputies who have been formally trained in dignitary protection in cases where intelligence gathering indicates a serious potential threat to a public servant. END

News Release

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