

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: May 12, 2009

SHERIFF'S RESERVE DEPUTY CREDITED FOR FOILING BANK ROBBER KNOWN AS "BAD HAIR BANDIT"

While Off Duty, Deputy Noticed "Something Strange"

(Phoenix, AZ) Alert and vigilant and properly trained to take action when necessary, a Maricopa County Sheriff's reserve deputy is the man now credited with foiling a serial bank robber authorities have come to call the "Bad Hair Bandit."

The "Bad Hair Robber" is suspected to be responsible for at least five bank robberies which have occurred over the last month in the East Valley.

And it was the bad hair that tipped the deputy off to "something strange" about a man outside a Scottsdale bank yesterday afternoon.

"It was a gut feeling I had from being a Sheriff's deputy for 10 years," Jeselun says. "The guy was just out of place wearing a long sleeve shirt on a super hot day and a big afro wig. I just sensed he was going to rob that bank."

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Jim Jeselun, who retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2007 and became a reserve deputy in 2008, was working nearby when he noticed the man in a Black Jetta outside the First Fidelity Bank in Mesa.

Jeselun immediately went to vehicle, copied down the plate number and waited nearby for the man to exit. When the suspected robber came out, Jeselun said the robber took off at a high rate of speed. Jeselun then walked toward the bank, and heard people say that the bank had been robbed. Jeselun then called police, secured the bank building and its employees then later provided the information needed to apprehend the suspect.

“Actually, it was kind of fun, “ Jeselun remarked later.

Jim Jeselun, 57, is one of nearly 300 armed reserve and posse members working for Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

Less than one week ago, Arpaio announced plans to recruit as many volunteers as possible for his armed posse and reserve program to bolster public safety in face of a 17% budget cut to the Sheriff's Office by the County Board of Supervisors.

“Jim is a great example of how critical the Sheriff's posse and reserve program is in augmenting public safety in this county. We need more people like him and aim to find and recruit them,” Arpaio said.

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