

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 13, 2009

### PHOENIX BASED PAPER COMPANY RAIDED FOR SECOND TIME BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

**44 ARRESTED TODAY**

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio today, continued his commitment of fighting illegal immigration by ordering his deputies to search a South Phoenix business where early this morning they arrested 44 employees.

Sheriff Arpaio says this is the second time in two years that his deputies have received information that managers at Royal Paper Company, 711 North 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix, are knowingly hiring illegal immigrants who may be using false identification documents to secure employment. The first raid occurred in March 2008 and netted four arrests of employees for ID theft.

In an afternoon press conference held today, Sheriff Arpaio explained that about 100 deputies and posseman surrounded the plant in the early morning hours today. Several employees attempted to flee but were found and detained by deputies.

Arpaio says 102 people were targeted in this morning's investigation. So far, 44 have been arrested, 35 of whom will be booked into jail on state felony charges of ID theft. The remaining employees will be processed and sent to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) where they will be subject to deportation.

Arpaio says the investigation into The Royal Paper Converting Company will

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News Release

continue as deputies attempt to locate the remaining suspects. Per today's search warrant, deputies took employment records, payroll records, computers and other documents.

Today's raid marks the 23rd investigation of local businesses knowingly hiring illegal aliens that has been conducted by the Sheriff's Office since 2008. Of those investigations, nearly 50% of the businesses involved have been located inside the city of Phoenix. All 23 investigations have resulted in over 310 arrests of illegal aliens.

Arpaio added that his 287G trained deputies have arrested 168 illegal aliens in various operations during the last two weeks alone.

"I'm pleased to see that local ICE authorities apparently may have changed their position about accepting people for possible deportation who we determined during today's operation are in the country illegally but with no state violations of the law," Arpaio says.

"Three weeks ago in our crime suppression operation in the Southeast Valley, ICE officials forced my office to release 10 illegal aliens back to the streets. Today they are accepting our arrests with no apparent interference from the Department of Homeland Security. That's a good sign" Arpaio says.

Still Arpaio anticipates some backlash from Washington DC about today's operation.

"President Obama and DHS Director Napolitano have a new policy which concentrates on going after employers who hire illegals aliens – not the employees who work here illegally," Arpaio says.

"I don't agree with their thinking. I will continue to enforce all federal and state illegal immigration laws. It's a problem that we cannot afford to ignore." END

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