

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 19, 2011

SAN DIEGO OFFICIALS TIGHTEN SECURITY AROUND ARPAIO'S VISIT IN WAKE OF RECENT EVENTS

(Phoenix, AZ) Security around Sheriff Joe Arpaio will be far tighter on Thursday than in times past when Arpaio travels on January 20, 2011 to a San Diego venue to speak before 1000 attendees.

Both San Diego police and Marriot Hotel security division personnel are concerned about public safety and the Sheriff's safety during his visit due to the high traffic of social networking chatter about Arpaio's "vile and outrageous behavior." The aim of the organizers is another large scale protest – an effort that got underway only hours after the Tucson tragedy.

Arpaio is routinely followed by demonstrators from New Hampshire to California when he travels as an invited speaker on the topics of incarceration practices and illegal immigration enforcement. He says he is not worried about his personal well being and safety but given the recent events in Tucson, Arpaio says he is more acutely aware of a possible threat to the public safety.

"These are the times we are living in," Arpaio says. "Officials must be ever more aware of the risks associated with taking a public stand on controversial issues. Despite that, we must stand by our beliefs and not back down or be intimidated by threats of protests or fear of physical harm."

San Diego police and Mission Valley Marriot security are prepared for over 300 protestors on Thursday at 7PM who are organizing now through Twitter and other social networking sites at the behest of nationally known activist Enrique Morones, founder of Border Angels. Morones is encouraging protestors to come to the hotel for a "vigil" aimed at "one of the main culprits of deception and division" in American politics today.

Arpaio adds, "They can protest all they want in a peaceful manner. But they will not force me to change the way I enforce the laws in Maricopa County. I will continue to enforce the illegal immigration laws and have plans in the near future for a number of operations." END

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov