

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 13, 2009

ARPAIO TELLS SHARPTON: "MY RESIGNATION IS NOT AN OPTION"

CHALLENGES THE CONTROVERSIAL REVEREND TO LEARN 'THE TRUTH'

(Phoenix, AZ) In a letter sent to the flamboyant and often outrageous Reverend Al Sharpton today, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio told Sharpton that the June 2009 protest he plans to lead against Arpaio is a waste of time. In addition Arpaio said if Reverend Sharpton bothered to research the facts, he would know there is no basis to Sharpton's publicity ploy.

Today's letter (**attached**) makes it clear that Sharpton will not force Sheriff Arpaio to resign or be removed from office nor will he intimidate Arpaio into backing off from his fight against illegal immigration.

"If that reverend thinks he is going to change the way we do things here in Maricopa County, then he's got another thing coming," Arpaio says.

Still, as a courtesy to the controversial Sharpton, Arpaio's letter suggested the two men meet if and when the Reverend comes to Phoenix to protest Arpaio's illegal immigration policies.

News Release

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“This man has been publicly embarrassed many times because he goes off half-cocked into other people’s business,” Arpaio says. “Hopefully, he’ll be willing to learn the truth for once about how my office properly and legally approaches the illegal immigration problem.”

“Like the saying goes, know the truth and the truth will set you free. In his case, the truth will set Reverend Sharpton free from further public embarrassment,” Arpaio says.

Sharpton recently announced in a national press conference that he will lend his voice to the chorus of critics rallying against Sheriff Arpaio and his deputy’s enforcement of the state and federal anti illegal immigration laws. Critics, including some locally elected officials, routinely portray Arpaio and his deputies as racists because they enforce state and federal immigration laws.

Sharpton says he will bring hundreds of activists to the Valley in June if Arpaio doesn’t resign from office.

“He must be living in fantasy land,” Arpaio says. “Arizona can use some extra tourist funds, so come on down.”

For more information, contact the on call media relations officer at:

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