

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: June 17, 2009

ARPAIO AND THE REVEREND AL SHARPTON WILL MEET TO DISCUSS SHERIFF'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe will meet with the Reverend Al Sharpton in private this Friday, June 19, 2009 in the Sheriff's downtown office located at 100 West Washington Suite 1900 to discuss the Sheriff's illegal immigration enforcement policies.

Arpaio wrote two letters to Sharpton in April and late May after Sharpton went before the national media asking Arpaio to resign or be removed from office. Sharpton claimed that Sheriff Arpaio's enforcement of the federal and state immigration laws in Arizona makes him similar to Alabama's Bull Conner, makes him a racial profiler, and accused Arpaio of unleashing a "reign of terror" in our community. The letters suggested that Sharpton should consider hearing the Sheriff out before making baseless claims to the media.

While Arpaio says it's only right to agree to a meeting, he is not at all optimistic about changing the Reverend's mind. "My guess is simply that in the end, we will have to agree to disagree about how to properly proceed with immigration enforcement," Arpaio says.

The meeting comes at the end of a one day visit to the valley by Sharpton who plans to lead a rally on immigration reform. He will allegedly be joined by Bertha Lewis, the national director of ACORN and local politicians who support Sharpton's attacks against the Sheriff.

Arpaio will be available to discuss his meeting with Sharpton after 2:45pm on Friday. For more information, contact the on call media relations officer at sheriffsmidiarequests@mcs.maricopa.gov

News Release

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