

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 18, 2008

SHERIFF MOBILIZES POSSE IN CENTRAL PHOENIX

CRIME SUPPRESSION OPERATION

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ARRESTS ANTICIPATED

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is sending out hundreds of volunteer posse members, reserves and deputies during a major crime suppression operation in central Phoenix which begins today.

The operation will focus on the area between 16th and 40th streets and Indian School and McDowell roads.

Businesses and residents in the area can expect to see a large presence of uniformed deputies and armed posse as well as marked Sheriff's vehicles for an undetermined amount of time as the operation aims for a zero tolerance stance on crime.

The operation comes as a result of a letter to the Sheriff from business owners in the area who asked for his help saying that they have more faith in the Sheriff's Office to reduce the ongoing property crimes occurring there, including the illegal immigration problem.

"The protesters who support the illegal immigration movement may have left the area, but the problems that caused Pruitt's Furniture Store to contract with the Sheriff's Office for security still exist," Sheriff Arpaio says. "If the people there need the extra security that my posse can provide, then I will give it them. We are familiar with the area as we have recently arrested 100 illegal aliens there."

The Sheriff's posse is made up of nearly 3000 volunteer men and women who provide law enforcement services at little to no charge to taxpayers.

"The posse volunteers and deputy sheriffs will not racially profile anyone in this

News Release

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operation,” Arpaio promises. “Still, I anticipate that many illegal immigrants will be arrested as this central Phoenix neighborhood remains a popular spot for day laborers. All criminal violations will be subject to arrest which means if we come across illegals, properly trained officers will be there to enforce the state and federal immigration laws.”

A briefing of the Sheriff’s operation will occur at 4PM Friday, January 18, 2008 at the northwest corner of 32nd Street and Thomas Road. Sheriff Arpaio will be joined at that briefing by some of the business owners who requested the Sheriff’s assistance. For more information, contact the on call Media Relations Officers at sheriffsmediarequests@mcs.maricopa.gov .

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