

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



January 5, 2012

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS TWO IN ATTEMPTED SALE OF DRUGS

Sheriff's Deputies Seize Over \$800,000 in Cash And Two Vehicles

(Maricopa County) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation concerning drug trafficking that could have been responsible for the distribution of thousands of pounds of marijuana throughout Maricopa County. The investigation culminated in the arrest of two suspects who reside in Anthem, Laura Behnke and Christian Vivola.

During the course of this undercover drug operation, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office seized over \$800,000 dollars in U. S. cash along with two high dollar vehicles. Behnke and Vivola have both been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Marijuana-Possess for Sale.

"Our investigations display a growing trend of drug trafficking within Maricopa County, after search warrants were served at the suspect's home; it appears that they may have been part of a larger money laundering organization. It seems to be more common for these drug smugglers to bring drugs in from our southern border and then ship them across the United States" says Arpaio.

In the past few months Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputies have seized over six tons of drugs during investigations involving the arrest of illegal aliens within Maricopa County.

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Arpaio said “I will continue the fight against drug traffickers coming from Mexico, and I will be conducting another crime suppression operation, to include the mobilization of my Air Posse to stop drugs from entering Maricopa County. During other investigations conducted by my Office we have found that a number of drug smugglers come into Maricopa County to purchase their marijuana and other drugs and then resell these drugs throughout the United States.”

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