

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 23, 2007

BUDGET WOES WILL NOT DETER HOLIDAY MALL PATROL/POSSE OPERATION SHERIFF SAYS

(Phoenix, AZ) Concern about the Sheriff's Office budget problems highlighted in the press earlier this month will have no impact on the 15th annual holiday mall patrol operation, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says.

"Public safety is our top concern. Fortunately, because we have great partners in the business community who will offset the costs of patrolling the malls, this year's operation will be essentially free to the taxpayer," says the Sheriff. Any expenses related to the operation will be paid for by the Westcor Corporation and Arizona Mills, The Hensley Corporation, owners and operators of most of the malls in Maricopa County.

Ten malls across the valley will be patrolled by volunteer posse members beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving and ending on December 26, 2007. The Kickoff is Friday, November 23, 2007 at the south end of the Metro Center Mall parking lot at 5:30PM.

Sheriff Arpaio began using his 3000 manned volunteer posse to offer extra protection to the shopping public back in 1993 after a series of violent car jackings. Since then, an average of 500 volunteer posse men and women have worked the mall patrol operation contributing an average of 3000 hours each year of free police protection.

No acts of violence have been reported at valley malls where the posse has patrolled since 1993, Arpaio says.

Arpaio will also be kicking off his annual Toy Drive in big fashion this season with the aide of one of the nation's largest drug store chains.

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Pager: (602) 238-8097

E-mail: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

Walgreens has agreed to accept toys at 185 of their stores throughout Maricopa County. All toys collected or purchased there will be given to needy military families and other children who live in the valley.

<END>

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Pager: (602) 238-8097 E-mail: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov