

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 7, 2008

### *County is NOT in a "Crime Crisis"*

## **Violent Crime in Unincorporated Maricopa County Down 10%**

### *New Suppression Operation To Occur Next Week*

(Phoenix, AZ.) The Sheriff's Office reports that violent crimes including murder, rape, aggravated assault, and armed robbery have declined by 10% this year compared to the same time last year throughout unincorporated Maricopa County, an area of about 8000 miles and a population of about 300,000 people all under the police protection of the Maricopa County Sheriff.

**Additionally, the number of priority 911 calls** to the Sheriff's Office which include violent crimes and others such as burglary in progress, assault, robbery, and serious traffic accidents **are down by 27 percent.**

These numbers are routinely provided to the FBI Uniform Crime Report.

"In the local media today, the Phoenix Mayor says that crime under the Sheriff's jurisdiction is nearing crisis levels," Arpaio says. "Patently untrue. Crime is down in the county so for the Mayor to insinuate my deputies aren't doing a good job fighting crime is wrong. He owes an apology to the 730 deputies who put their lives on the line every day protecting the public."

**Another statistic available today tells a very different story about the number of warrants the Sheriff's Office clears by arrest. (MORE)**

News Release

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In recent months, the Sheriff's Office has been sharply criticized for turning its attention toward fighting illegal immigration at the expense of clearing felony warrants. In fact, the Governor recently took away \$1.2 million dollars given to the Sheriff by the state legislature specifically to fight illegal immigration. Instead she gave that money to a task force designed to tackle criminal warrants.

An unnecessary move, the Sheriff says because **since the beginning of 2008, 7900 warrants have been cleared by arrest by Sheriff's deputies, the vast majority of which are felony, not misdemeanor, warrants.**

"Seventy nine hundred warrants cleared by arrest in only seven months should put an end to the criticism that this agency doesn't concentrate on finding dangerous fugitives," Arpaio says.

Arpaio credits the reduction in crime to many things including the crime suppression operations his deputies and posse volunteers have recently conducted throughout the valley.

Despite efforts to thwart the Sheriff's fight against illegal immigration, Arpaio says another big suppression operation is slated to occur in six days.

"Every time someone lies about the good work being done by this Sheriff's Office, I will come to the defense of my employees who do an outstanding job protecting the public, housing inmates, jailing illegal immigrants and clearing warrants," Arpaio says. END

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