

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 23, 2009

### *SHERIFF JOE ARPAIO SAYS IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL*

### 200 DEPUTIES AND POSSE BEGIN 10TH CRIME SUPPRESSION/ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION

### THREE DAY OPERATION TARGETS SOUTHEAST VALLEY

(Phoenix, AZ.) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says he and his deputies will not shy away from their law enforcement responsibilities and today commenced their 10<sup>th</sup> valley crime suppression operation aimed at deterring both crime and illegal immigration.

Approximately 200 Sheriff's deputies and volunteer posse members converged on the Southeast valley communities of Chandler, Queen Creek and certain areas of Phoenix and Mesa in what Sheriff Arpaio calls a "zero tolerance law enforcement operation."

All violators of any law, Arpaio says, will be booked into his jails with no one getting a 'get out of jail free card.'

"Chandler has had a recent spike in crime," says the Sheriff. "In addition to that fact, my deputies and officials from ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) have raided several illegal alien drop houses in the area and made numerous human smuggling arrests. My deputies have also raided four (4) Chandler businesses after

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](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

receiving information they were hiring illegal aliens. So it's time we focus on the Southeast Valley for the benefit of the citizens residing and working here."

Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu was asked by Sheriff Arpaio to assist in the operation. Babeu offered ten (10) deputies to aid Arpaio in the operation, saying the opportunity to assist will also act as a training exercise for his deputies who have recently been 287G cross certified to fight illegal immigration in his county.

According to Arpaio, the primary objective of his crime suppression operation is to conduct criminal, traffic and human smuggling enforcement. All stops will be made in full accordance with Sheriff's Office policy and procedures and at no time will any vehicle be stopped solely because of the race of the occupants inside that vehicle. Racial profiling is strictly prohibited, Arpaio says.

Arpaio and his office are currently under scrutiny by various federal authorities which are investigating claims of civil rights violations in the Sheriff's crime suppression operations.

"Critics can say whatever they wish," Arpaio says. "But as the Sheriff of this county, it is my duty to do whatever I can to fight and reduce all crimes occurring inside the county. Some of those crimes involve illegal immigration. And while certain federal agencies and local politicians might like to curtail my efforts in this area, I will continue to fulfill my duties as Sheriff."

END

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