

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 29, 2008

MAYOR'S RACIAL PROFILING CHARGE SENT TO U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL TOTALLY FALSE

SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATION REVEALS GORDON'S EMPLOYEE ADMITTED NO RACIAL PREJUDICE IN STOP/CITATION

(Phoenix, AZ) Today, Sheriff Joseph Arpaio released the completed investigation of a long-standing charge by Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon of racial profiling involving a City of Phoenix employee. In a letter to the Attorney General of the United States dated April 4, 2008, Mayor Gordon accused the Sheriff's office of a racially motivated stop and citation against a city employee. The Sheriff ordered an immediate investigation into the serious charge leveled by the Mayor against his deputies.

After informal telephone requests to the Mayor's office and other city officials were ignored, the Sheriff's investigators were forced to take the unusual step of a public records request to obtain the identity of the alleged complaining witness. The investigators were forced to review thousands of emails produced during the investigation. The records produced failed to identify any incident where a city employee had made any such complaint to the Mayor's office. Finally, in response to an office-wide request at the Sheriff's office and an intensive search of the records of the lake area Sheriff's district, a complaint dated December 7, 2007 – four months before Mayor Gordon's letter to the Department of Justice was discovered. (See attached documents)

The employee was a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the offense, was not cited nor was she asked for identification. In fact, the employee apologized to the Sheriff's Office sergeant investigating the incident for "throwing out the 'racial card'".

"The Sheriff's office had to waste substantial time, money and assets investigating these groundless charges" said Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre. "It is inconceivable that the Mayor did not know his claim of racial profiling was false. He could have taken ten minutes in the four months between this citation and his baseless letter to the Attorney General of the United States. It would have taken him no time to check his facts before going off half-cocked. To not do so is irresponsible for anyone, never mind a lawyer and mayor."

Sheriff Arpaio stated: "I have always stressed equal treatment by my employees of everyone they deal with in the public. I was confident that the Mayor's political attack letter was groundless and

News Release

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false. I am sending a copy of my report to the U. S. Attorney General with a suggestion that he may want to look into the actions of this mayor who makes baseless accusations to try to force me to ignore the State and Federal laws on illegal immigration.”

Contact SheriffsMediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov with inquiries.

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