

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 22, 2008

Breaking News

31 YEAR OLD LAWSUIT CONCLUDES WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE SHERIFF'S JAIL SYSTEM REQUIRED

(Phoenix, AZ) Sixteen years before Sheriff Joe Arpaio was even elected into office, a lawsuit was filed by jailhouse inmates alleging 116 areas of non compliance.

The suit, long known as Hart V Hill, sat in the courts for over 31 years. For the last ten years, Arpaio has pushed the courts to resolve the suit and terminate the consent decree.

Today the suit was resolved and the areas of compliance were drastically reduced from 116 to a mere 15 on the Sheriff's side of the case.

Among the recommendations to the Sheriff's Office:

- *provide more cleaning supplies to inmates to keep their own toilets clean
- *provide fully functioning toilets and sinks in intake and in four cells in Madison Street Jail and more access to toilets and sinks in those same areas
- *provide one hour of recreation four (4) days a week for the majority of pretrial detainees
- *improve record keeping by the Sheriff's nutritionist. Although food is usually a major complaint by inmates, the judgment requires no changes in the inmate's diet at this time

News Release

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*two small areas of the Sheriff's jail operations require some modification to the number of inmates held there. The two areas referred to in the judgment do not house inmates but act as staging areas for inmate movement to courts or other facilities.

*increase statistical reporting

Other modifications dealing with inmate healthcare are to be addressed by Correctional Health Services, a separate department from the Sheriff and not under his supervision or authority.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio says he's pleased that the case is finally over.

"I became Sheriff well over a decade after this case was first filed. Still I have always maintained that we run a safe and constitutionally adequate jail system. This judgment reinforces the excellent work being performed by the detention staff and we all are always committed to improving the jail system wherever possible."

For more clarification on today's ruling reference healthcare issues, please direct your questions to the Maricopa County manager's Office. For more information on the detention side of today's judgment, email your questions to SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov .

END

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