

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 5, 2008

SHERIFF'S UNDERCOVER ALCOHOL OPERATION NETS 21 ARRESTS ACROSS VALLEY

sheriff's office to investigate employment of four illegals included in sales suspects

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's public promise to crack down on valley retail employees selling alcohol to minors is made good.

On day two of Arpaio's county-wide underage alcohol patrols, Sheriff's deputies spread across the valley hitting 71 different establishments, including major chain stores Circle K and 7-Eleven.

In all, 162 stores have been checked by deputies testing the establishments' obedience to the state liquor laws. Of these locations, 10% of the stores and their employees violated the law by selling alcohol to underage, undercover Sheriff's officers working with deputies.

"Underage drinking and driving is a critical problem and we are attacking it at one of its sources," says Arpaio.

Arrests made by Sheriff's deputies now total 21 people. Those violating the law were arrested, handcuffed, and booked into jail, including four illegal immigrants. These illegals now have immigration holds and are awaiting deportation.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio has ordered his Illegal Immigration Interdiction (Triple I) unit to investigate the employment of the illegal aliens and to inform Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas. However, no businesses have been shutdown or pad locked as a result of the Sheriff's operation and investigations.

The undercover alcohol sales patrols will continue, according to the Sheriff.

"I keep good on my promises. So let these arrests be a warning and an example to those who would violate the law by selling alcohol to our underage youth," says the Sheriff.

Operation Details

Arrests made in: Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Guadalupe, Mesa, Phoenix, Tempe, Wickenburg
Arrest totals: Adult 19; Juvenile 2; Illegal Aliens 4

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