

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 7, 2010

Hark! Arpaio 7 – Grinch 0

Seven Christmas Music Suits Decided for Sheriff

(Maricopa County, Arizona)United States District Court Judge G. Murray Snow, on January 4, 2010, granted judgment for Sheriff Joe Arpaio in the seventh and last challenge to holiday music in the jails. The seven cases were filed in January, 2009, raising numerous claims against the Sheriff's policy of playing Christmas season music in all the jails. The pendency of these cases did not dampen Sheriff Arpaio's holiday spirit. Similar holiday music selections played throughout the month of December this year.

Judge Snow's order found "neutral secular purposes for playing holiday music" included reducing tension in the facilities. In addition, the judge found no "excessive government entanglement with religion" and no attempt to advance religion.

Sheriff Arpaio greeted the final challenge outcome cheerfully. "Now that all of the 2009 challenges to my music policy have been resolved in our favor, I hope the anti-Christmas, anti-holiday inmates and ACLU activists won't waste my time and the taxpayers' money in wasteful, mean-spirited litigation. Go with the spirit of the season as I do – Good Will to All Men and Women – incarcerated or not", said Arpaio.

The lawsuits which had challenged Sheriff Arpaio's music policy were heard by several different Federal judges. All of the cases were concluded in favor of the Sheriff – no matter which judge heard the cases.

"Judge Snow and the several other Federal judges who addressed these claims saw them for what they were – frivolous wastes of time, money and scarce resources in already tough economic times", said Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre. "It is unfortunate that our judicial system is burdened by such claptrap."

News Release

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