

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... Saturday's article (9-19-09) by Arizona Republic reporter JJ Hensley

The Truth... September 25th -2009 FBI Confirms the Sheriff's Position over Control of the County Criminal Justice Computer Systems

Court-Appointed Special Master proclaimed that the Sheriff's Office is the ' interface agency ' for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the FBI and as such has sole control and authority over the County Criminal Justice Systems and network.

Saturday's article (9-19-09) by Arizona Republic reporter JJ Hensley only reported a small portion of the overall event that transpired Friday with the court-appointed Special Master and the meeting that was held between County Administrators and the Sheriff's Office. Though the reporter did mention that the Special Master from DPS declared that "the Sheriff's Office had the sole authority to certify employees who have access to the computer system", he failed to mention that the FBI weighed in and confirmed the Sheriff's actions as the correct interpretation of state and federal statutes. Moreover, the FBI declared that the Sheriff was the 'primary interface' to the criminal justice systems and that the Sheriff is the only criminal justice agency in the County that can approve security clearances and certifications.

Just a day earlier, the Board of Supervisors passed a hastily-prepared special agenda item to side-step the existing Court orders and enter into an agreement with the Maricopa County Superior Court to issue these certifications. Now, the Board action and vote that was approved contradicts and violates both state and federal guidelines and violates standing Court orders.

Moving forward, these actions on Friday serve as a clear endorsement of the Sheriff's position and his actions to properly safeguard the security and privacy of these public safety systems and networks from improper County Management control and abuse of authority along with preserving existing taxpayer investment in criminal justice improvements expended as a result of the Jail Tax Bond Fund.

The Truth

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