

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



**The Headline...** Arpaio Must Focus More on County, Less on His Ego Arizona Republic, August 23rd 2009

**The Truth...** August 24th, 2009

Once again, the Arizona Republic's editorial board continues to be redundant in its criticism of Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his office and has not produced a decent editorial on his office.

The Arizona Republic newspaper continues to mislead readers on the 40,000 warrants through out Maricopa County; each warrant falls in the jurisdiction of every law enforcement agency in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is directly responsible for only about 4% of those warrants.

Arpaio looks for ways to cut spending, saving taxpayers money where he can; he seeks to protect our communities by running a safe and efficient jail system, by emphasizing the need to go after drug dealers and drug labs and anyone who commits violent crimes; his office works to protect the thousands of people who each week enjoy our lakes and rivers; he steadfastly has deputies go after and jail animal abusers; and despite mounting opposition from a new presidential administration, Arpaio maintains his focus on fighting the omnipresent problems associated with illegal immigration which deeply afflict this community.

Just for the record, the Sheriff's Office has arrested and investigated over 31,000 illegal aliens, including 1,500 felony human smuggling arrests, over 500 illegal aliens during crime suppression efforts, 1,679 arrested under the Federal 287-G program, and cleared numerous warrants.

The newspaper claims Arpaio has cost taxpayers millions in lawsuits. With the present day 'get rich by suing someone' mentality, what large jail system in the country doesn't have its share of lawsuits? Since Arpaio has been Sheriff, his office has incarcerated over 1.5 million inmates and paid out \$30 million in verdicts and claims for all its operations. Compare this figure with local and national law enforcement agencies, some that do not have the responsibility of running jails, and it's a fraction. Recently, we have won 15 consecutive lawsuits and paid out only \$30,000 in judgments. Will the AZ Republic ever do a story about that? Not likely.

Instead of commending the Sheriff on investigating political corruption, Arpaio and his office are ridiculed. Why does it appear that the Arizona Republic is supportive of certain public officials who are currently under investigation? It should be noted that the Sheriff and the County Attorney formed a corruption unit and therefore follow through on allegations coming to their attention.

In short, Sunday's comments are the same tired allegations the editorial board has quoted time and again. After 17 years in Office and 48 years in law enforcement, the Sheriff is not part of a "Good ole Boy Network", but in actuality, he is the Lone Ranger in his focus and fight on illegal

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The Truth

immigration and crackdown on corruption. However, this Sheriff will never surrender and will continue to serve the people of this county and do the job he was elected to do.

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