

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

December 14, 2009

And the Beat Goes On.....

Despite a series of lawsuits and grievances filed by inmates to stop it, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has ordered that Christmas music be played throughout his jail system through the holiday season.

The music is played in all jails, all day to the approximate 8000 people incarcerated. Holiday music from all countries and faiths are included in the play list from Latin America to the Middle East, Arpaio says.

Inmates have filed six (6) lawsuits over the Sheriff's policy to play Christmas music in the last two years. Grievances center on cruel and unusual punishment claims as well as forcing inmates to participate in religious celebrations. To date, four (4) of the six suits have been dismissed and the two (2) remaining are expected to be dismissed by the courts.