

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: June 8, 2009

ARPAIO DISAPPOINTED BY RAPPER DMX'S SENTENCE

Simmons says he's leaving Arizona – Sheriff says “Good Riddance”

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said today he is “very disappointed” at the court’s leniency towards former rap star DMX when he was sentenced today on the charge of aggravated assault against a Sheriff’s Office detention officer.

DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, threw a food tray in anger at a detention officer on February 22nd after being on a diet of bread and water for other jailhouse infractions.

Arpaio says the rapper has had a life long history of problems with the law and yet managed to avoid jail time until he moved to Arizona.

Since August 2007, Simmons who lived in Cave Creek, was arrested on five separate occasions by Sheriff’s deputies for crimes ranging from animal cruelty to drug possession and defrauding a local hospital of \$7500.00 in medical services.

Simmons was in jail for just over five (5) months for these charges. He had fled the jurisdiction on two occasions requiring Sheriff’s deputies to fly to Florida to bring him back to Arizona to face charges – all at taxpayer expense.

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“This guy has been a problem for law enforcement for years. The fact that the court gave him what amounts to about two weeks time for assaulting an officer is a farce,” Arpaio says.

The Sheriff predicts this isn't the last time DMX will be in trouble.

“DMX has a problem keeping his word,” Arpaio says. “He promised me personally while in Tent City that he would behave in jail and would not assault other inmates or detention officers and he could not keep that promise. That doesn't bode well for his future in my opinion.”

Meanwhile, the Sheriff says the only real benefit in this criminal case against DMX is that he had to relinquish his dogs after the cruelty charges were levied. Seven dogs remain at Arpaio's MASH unit for adoption. They have been there being cared for by female inmates since August 2007.

“His dogs have done more jail time than DMX did – somehow that doesn't seem right,” Arpaio says.

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