

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... Judge finds deputy chief in contempt of court Failure to bring inmates to court on time is at issue Arizona Republic October 1, 2009

The Truth... The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office would like to supply a few key facts that are conveniently MIA from this story that may impact the public's perception of this continuous problem

The Sheriff's Office has admitted to the newspaper and to the courts that of all of the times that court proceedings have been delayed or cancelled, the Sheriff's Office has been responsible roughly 35% of the time. The other 65% can be attributed to judges and attorneys. This has been documented daily by the Sheriff's Office.

Judge Donahoe has expressed to high ranking officials of the Sheriff's Office that it is his belief that Sheriff Arpaio should not be committing as many people to illegal immigration enforcement as he does. This fact was actually written about by the AZ Republic on May 25 by Michael Kiefer.

The Sheriff's Office has been awarded money through state legislation to combat illegal immigration which is used to fund those positions and can not be used for other operations such as serving the courts.

The Sheriff also utilizes volunteer personnel from the posse when conducting crime suppression operations that often net the arrest of numerous illegal aliens.

In addition to the fact that the Sheriff's Office has experienced a shortage of man power over the years even though the courts continue to add new calendars, the Sheriff's Office has been required to vacate 200 detention officer positions, 25 deputy positions, and the remaining deputies are being required to take a mandatory 56 furlough hours over the next year to balance the budget.

It does not appear however that the superior court has seen a decrease in the number of judges or courts despite reports by Maricopa County that cite decreasing revenues.

Last but not least, the recent controversy surrounding the Sheriff's Office purchase using jail enhancement funds acquired by law violators of a new inmate transport bus also plays a role in all of this. The political feuding that has prevented the registration and licensing of this much needed transport bus leaves it sitting in a parking lot wasting away instead of being made available to help transport nearly 1,600 inmates a day to and from court.

Click here to see Deputy Chief Dave Trombi's July 17th letter to Judge Mundell:

http://www.mcso.org/include/pr_pdf/mundell%20letter.pdf

The Truth

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