

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... Sheriff cars paid for with crime funds Arizona Republic, October 4, 2009

The Truth... Once again, the Arizona Republic failed miserably in trying to report on an issue using only part of the information provided to their reporters. The Republic continues its campaign against the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office by eliminating basic facts and information. Headlines to mislead the reader are now common place with the Republic.

Racketeering activities include any act if committed for financial gain to include murder, kidnapping, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, terrorism, forgery, gambling, trafficking in explosives, weapons or stolen property, participating in a criminal syndicate, sexual exploitation of a minor, prostitution, counterfeiting and money laundering.

The monies deposited to the RICO fund are derived from recovered costs and fees as a result of enforcement of the listed activities. These funds may be used for the benefit of the agency or agencies responsible for enforcement of RICO. Monies in the fund may be used for funding gang prevention programs, substance abuse prevention programs, substance abuse education programs, witness protection, law enforcement equipment, tools, computers, specialized training programs and yes, public corruption cases.

- The Republic references the use of leased vehicles by deputies and commanders. The Sheriff's Office has always used leased vehicles as a crime enforcement tool – they are not personal vehicles providing commuter transportation for employees as the reporters Harris and Hensley would have you believe. These vehicles are critical to our 24/7 operation, for all personnel subject to call out at any time and an allowable expenditure for law enforcement equipment. Harris and Hensley also fail to mention that these leases are full coverage leases. Everything that is needed to keep the cars on the road from new tires to brakes is included to insure that we are ready when an emergency happens.
- By using RICO funds, the Sheriff's Office is saving the County's general fund \$500,000. The County management has always encouraged the Sheriff's Office to use funding sources other than general fund to purchase, lease, or seize the law enforcement tools required by the Office to do its job. Now the county wants to take the funds for their own special projects. This would cripple law enforcement in this state if politicians and not the law enforcement professionals controlled it. Other cities and towns use taxpayer dollars to fund these vehicles. Mayor Phil Gordon uses between approximately eight hundred thousand to one million dollars of tax payer money to fund his security detail.
- Harris and Hensley guide their fictional representation of the facts to paint Sheriff Arpaio and Chief Deputy Hendershott as abusing funds and the public trust. First Harris and Hensley were repeatedly told of the security concerns constantly surrounding Sheriff Arpaio and

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The Truth

Chief Deputy Hendershott. These concerns were totally ignored. Second the fact that Sheriff Arpaio works constantly seven days a week was also ignored.

- Harris , Hensley and the Arizona Republic editors fail to mention the thousands of pound of drugs taken off the street and would rather criticize the Sheriff and Sheriff's Office for how it copes with a Board of Supervisors and County Management that is bent on evading investigations and destroying the fabric of law enforcement in Maricopa County.
- The Maricopa County Association of Detention Officers (MCADO) contacted Sheriff Administration Monday and said that Officer Katie Perez was totally misquoted in the article that appeared in the Republic Sunday. Officer Perez said that in a conversation with JJ Hensley "I was never aware of such a (RICO)fund and what the money was used for. The conversation was strictly about going to the County Board of Supervisors to ask them to have the bus registration and license issued. The RICO fund was never brought up." MCADO also said that "this was the second time that the Arizona Republic has created issues for MCADO." Even though the statement from Harris and Hensley was false the premise was also false. RICO money can not be used for salaries of Deputies as the article would lead you to believe.
- The Sheriff's Office employs civilian investigators who work side by side with deputies on RICO cases. These employees have highly specialized training required for on site case analyses and the vehicles used by these employees transport the specialty equipment needed for proper evaluation and transportation of on site evidence collection. Craig Harris and JJ Hensley not only were irresponsible and reckless by revealing the name of the civilian employee and the detail description of the vehicle being used by that employee, the Republic has jeopardized the safety of that employee and his family. This was mean spirited in an attempt to embarrass a high ranking command officer who son has work for nine years with the Sheriff Office.
- The Sheriff's Office was contacted By Courtesy Leasing and told that Craig Harris and JJ Hensley's story falsely said that Courtesy leasing and Fox leasing were the same company. The story also falsely stated that a long time employee of Courtesy Leasing was an employee of Fox Leasing. Both companies independently won the county bid and are not related. Courtesy Leasing last had the contract in January of 2002. Fox Leasing took over in Feb of 2002. Courtesy Leasing said that Fox Leasing had contacted an attorney regarding the false information.
- The Republic reiterated statements from articles that are years old on training of employees, travel, Honduras, the Chief Deputy and the Sheriff. The statements were inaccurate and false

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then and continue to be inaccurate and false today.

1. Staying at the hotel that is hosting specialized training for deputies is common practice of 99% of all police agencies. The hotel usually provides a special rate for officers attending the training. Living at the training location is conducive to full participation and networking among officers.
2. The Sheriff's Office established and developed a sister city relationship with Honduras focusing on drug law enforcement and human smuggling. As the official representative of the Sheriff's Office, the Chief Deputy never traveled first class to Honduras. This was simply a lie by Craig Harris and JJ Hensley. There are limited flights to Honduras and economy class costs up to \$900 round trip. In fact, the Chief Deputy and staff seats have been located between rows 20 to 26 on all flights. A long, long way from first class.

The Arizona Republic has an agenda that is aimed at the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. They have professed Home Rule. This style of government would take away the powers of the independently elected Sheriff, County Attorney and other officials elected by the people. These critical Offices would then be run by the Board of Supervisors. This style of government was rejected by the people. Now the Supervisors, county management and the Republic are trying to install Home rule one policy at a time under the nose of the people of this county. The lack of professionalism displayed by the Republic is most concerning. The continuous agenda to attack the Sheriff, the Sheriff's Office, and to keep what is happening in this county from the people is a painful reality.

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