

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... Sheriff must be removed from Stapley case Arizona Republic, September 23rd 2009

The Truth... September 23rd, 2009

Today's Arizona Republic Editorial suggests that the Sheriff's Office should be removed from the Don Stapley investigation because of a political dispute between the Board of Supervisor member and Sheriff Arpaio.

What nonsense.

As usual, the paper's editorial board fails to mention some very pertinent points which would run contrary to their assertions.

First, the Maricopa County Anti-Corruption Enforcement Unit was started by Sheriff Arpaio and County Attorney Andrew Thomas in 2006 with the aim of fighting political corruption and white collar crime. It is the duty of both offices to follow up on any and all leads pointing to the possibility of such crimes. Turning their backs on information out of political favor to a fellow elected official would be tantamount to dereliction of duty.

Additionally, their offices are not the only law enforcement agencies to investigate elected officials.

Terry Goddard, the Arizona Attorney General, (Democrat) and apparently darling of the Arizona Republic editorial board, over the years has also investigated several elected Arizona Republican officials for various crimes.

His investigations often were not earth shaking. Charges were minor, many were reduced and still other cases were found not guilty. Why doesn't the Arizona Republic shame Goddard for his poor record as it so willingly does Sheriff Arpaio and County Attorney Thomas?

The newspaper also makes the claim in today's editorial that Arpaio only goes after his political enemies like Mary Rose Wilcox, Don Stapley, Sandra Dowling, and Terry Goddard.

The fact of the matter is this: none of these officials were Sheriff Arpaio's adversary when the investigations against them launched. To say that each one was a friend of the Sheriff would go too far, it's true, because in politics, a person has no friends. But they were by no means enemies of the Sheriff.

The paper also repeatedly makes the claim that Arpaio's deputies went after former School Superintendent Sandra Dowling with guns, SWAT teams, and helicopters. This is a complete fabrication with no factual basis whatsoever. The fact is that her case was indicted by Attorney

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100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

General Goddard with the final decision being made by prosecutors. It was not the Sheriff's doing.

The paper constantly criticizes Sheriff Arpaio for orchestrating political witch hunts and yet it fails to write about what a huge political witch-hunt is now ongoing against the Sheriff. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice are investigating Arpaio and his office. Why? Because politically they disagree with how he enforces illegal immigration and corruption laws in Maricopa County.

The Arizona Republic has joined forces in the witch hunt and has printed numerous misleading headlines, editorial commentaries, and negative news articles relating to illegal immigration and corruption cases.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander except at the Arizona Republic where writers and editors always make Sheriff Arpaio out as the evil villain of Maricopa County. They have done this now for 17 years and sadly, there is no end in sight.

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