

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... 'Sweeps' afoul of both state and federal law

October 19, 2009

The Truth... Foul Reporting by the Arizona Republic Deceives Public

In today's Arizona Republic editorial column, "Sweeps Afoul of Both State and Federal Law," the newspaper once again spits out its venom about Sheriff Joe Arpaio and immigration enforcement by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

First deputies have authority to enforce all state laws, which includes the Arizona class-four-felony Human Smuggling Law, and Employer Sanctions Law. Second, we strongly believe Title 8, Section 1324 of the United States Code provides for enforcement of federal immigration laws by local law enforcement.

We are optimistic that our request for a formal opinion by the Maricopa County Attorney will silence critics of our immigration enforcement by consolidating statute and case law supportive of our work. A multitude of court decisions back up the Sheriff's position, and with the County Attorney, together we have an excellent track record of proving and winning legal arguments that authenticate our immigration enforcement.

What knowledge and experience does the editorial board have regarding any law enforcement? Remember, opinions matter only when they are rooted in fact and truth; they do not matter when they are based on half-truths and out right fabrication.

This editorial board cannot speak with any authority on these matters. However, it is amusing to witness the folly in yet another attempt to discredit Sheriff Arpaio and his Office.

Sheriff Arpaio made an agreement with the federal government which allowed him to authorize the continued use of the 287(g) program in county jail. The agreement only governs jail operations concerning immigration enforcement. It neither restricts nor expressly prohibits immigration enforcement in the field, whether the enforcement is of state or federal immigration law. Consider the analogy of a bank robbery where the federal government has primary jurisdiction, and where local police investigate and arrest suspects, nearly everyday. The Republic's take is deluded. Review Assistant Homeland Security Secretary John Morton's comments closely, and you will note that he was speaking only about the 287(g) agreement, stating nothing about the entire body of immigration law (state & federal).

We do not think any other group over at the Arizona Republic can do a better job of twisting the facts to present a skewed view. One would figure by now, that the leadership at the newspaper would be concerned that the credibility of the Arizona Republic suffers when it spews only part of the story.

The Truth

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The Sheriff's most recent crime suppression operation successfully removed 66 suspects from the street, including 30 illegal aliens. What happened to the illegal aliens that deputies took into custody? They were not set free. That's right, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement responded and worked with the Sheriff's Office to enforce federal immigration law. These arrests are no different from previous arrests made by Sheriff's deputies. And by the way, the total of arrests made by deputies number in the thousands.

It is interesting that the editorial board failed to mention this most important fact, if it had then their opinion would be negated entirely.

The editorial board goes to great length to confuse and trick the reader into believing Sheriff Arpaio and his deputies do not have the authority to enforce state and federal immigration laws, but now you know the truth.

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