

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



**Date:** April 29, 2010

### **SHERIFF ARPAIO KICKS OFF 15TH CRIME SUPPRESSION/ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION**

### **MOUNTING PRESSURE WILL NOT DIMINISH ARPAIO'S RESOLVE TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS**

***FOCUS AREA: WEST PHOENIX WHERE CRIME AND HUMAN  
SMUGGLING PROBLEMS PERSIST***

**(Phoenix, AZ)** Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio turns his attention to west Phoenix on Thursday and Friday, April 29/30th as he kicks off the 15th crime suppression and illegal immigration enforcement operation undertaken by approximately 200 deputies and posse volunteers since similar operations began in March of 2008.

This week's operation will focus on west Phoenix, Arpaio says, to include the community of Maryvale, an area particularly hard hit by both property and violent crime as well as having a high concentration of drop houses used by human smugglers. The area of enforcement will be from I-17 to the east to State Route 101 on the west; McDowell Road on the south to Glendale Road on the north.

Information gathered by sheriff's deputies over the last several weeks indicate this area is a hub not only for drop houses but also for transportation routes used by human traffickers to move illegal immigrants to locations inside and outside Arizona.

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**Thursday's operation is expected to draw an unusually high amount of protestors due in part to the explosive nature of the Arizona's immigration bill which was recently passed into law by the Governor. Arpaio has warned his deputies to be prepared for problems stemming from critics protesting or disrupting deputies as they make criminal or traffic stops during the two day long operation.**

**Arpaio predicts his critics will say this operation is being conducted solely to underscore the new state law. "That's not at all the case," Arpaio says. "I've discussed this operation long before the bill's passage with several media people always saying it would occur at the end of April."**

**Arpaio added, "We will not be deterred, and we will be extra vigilant with an eye toward officer safety. Lots of people are angry right now which translates to more danger posed for cops."**

**Past operations, while always controversial, have resulted in numerous arrests of both US citizens and illegal immigrants. In the 14 previous operations, each of which logged 24 hours of operational time, arrest totals were 839 people, of which 436 were illegal aliens charged with various criminal and/or immigration violations.**

**The new state law will require police officers statewide to undergo training in immigration law. Under Arpaio, his office is ahead of the game. Months ago, he ordered that all 900 sworn deputies be properly trained to enforce illegal immigration laws, a move made necessary after the recent decision by Department of Homeland Security to take away the federal authority of 100 deputies, all of whom had been formally trained by the Department of Homeland Security to enforce immigration laws.**

**The last crime suppression/illegal immigration operation occurred on March 19, 2010. That operation netted 111 arrests in a 24 hour period, of which 78 were illegal aliens. Sheriff's deputies also made two large drug seizures, one of which was a 600 pound load of marijuana being brought into the county by eight (8) suspected illegal aliens. END**

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