

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: June 4, 2010

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES SERVE IDENTITY THEFT SEARCH WARRANT DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT LARGE RETAIL STORE

Sheriff Arpaio Looking Forward to Enforcing New Immigration Law

(Maricopa County, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies last night served an identity theft search warrant at Burlington Coat Factory inside the Arizona Mills Mall located at 5000 South Arizona Mills Circle in Tempe, Arizona.

Undercover deputies entered the store during business hours at approximately 6:00 PM posing as patrons while they were seeking to identify the suspects believed to be using false identification. Three employees were quickly identified, detained and removed from the store.

Sheriff Arpaio said, "Our deputies acted very professionally in serving this search warrant. They were in and out in less than an hour and hardly disrupted the business. Now the search for the other seven suspects will continue."

Sheriff Joe Arpaio reports that deputies received a tip from a former employee of the retail store in January of this year indicating that several employees used false identification to secure employment and are living and working in the country illegally.

Deputies made the decision to serve the warrant on Thursday night after receiving information that many of the suspects typically show up on Thursday nights after 6PM to pick up their pay checks.

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The investigation continued as deputies pursued addresses on record of the remaining suspects but found that like their identification, the addresses were not valid.

Sheriff Arpaio stated that this investigation is the 34th of its kind where deputies have gone into the workplace and investigated illegal aliens who have used false identification to gain employment in the United States. Of those 34 investigations, 395 illegal aliens have been arrested and 261 have been booked for identity theft, a class four felony.

In the past three years that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has cracked down on enforcing state and federal illegal immigration laws, over 38,000 illegal aliens have been discovered by sheriff's officers through investigations, arrests, or jail screening. Sheriff Arpaio is confident that Arizona's new immigration law that takes effect on July 29th will further enhance his office's ability to fight illegal immigration.

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