

April 8, 2008

Sheriff Joe Arpaio  
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office  
100 W. Washington, Suite 1900  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Hand Delivered

Dear Sheriff Arpaio: 

I recently became aware through a variety of media releases that Representative Russell Pearce (R-Mesa) invited you to come to the East Valley, including the City of Mesa (Mesa), pursuant to your recent anti-immigration operations in the City of Phoenix and the Town of Guadalupe. I also understand that Representatives Mark Anderson (R-Mesa), Warde Nichols (R-Gilbert), Steve Yarbrough (R-Chandler), and Eddie Farnsworth (R-Gilbert), as well as Senator Chuck Gray (R-Mesa) and Senator Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) joined in Rep. Pearce's request.

As you well know, these operations have attracted a substantial level of attention by groups in support and against your anti-illegal immigration policies. These developments are very concerning to me, given the sensitivity and emotionally charged nature of the current illegal immigration debate.


I know you share my same concern for the safety and well being of the City of Mesa, its residents, and those desiring to exercise their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly guaranteed by the United States Constitution and by the State of Arizona as well as the safety and well-being of our respective officers. To minimize the threat to public safety, the Mesa Police Department (MPD) is activating an operational plan. The plan is designed to assist your office, while it operates within the boundaries of Mesa, to mitigate the likelihood of civil disturbances and/or assist with handling any disturbances.

To assist with MPD's preparations, I am requesting that we be notified at least two (2) days in advance of the time and location of any planned Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) anti-immigration sweep similar to that conducted in the City of Phoenix and the Town of Guadalupe so that we are able to adequately redirect our limited resources. I am also requesting that MCSO allow for the placement of an MPD command level law enforcement liaison officer within the MCSO's operations center and for MCSO to provide MPD with an MCSO law enforcement liaison officer at MPD's command post. This will assist with facilitating full and open communications between our respective agencies during the operational period and maximize the safety of everyone involved.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at 480.644.2321 or you may also have a member of your staff contact Assistant Chief John Meza at 480.644.2441.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance in facilitating the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

  
George Gascon,  
Chief of Police

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