



Coalición de Derechos Humanos

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ARPAIO ¡NO!

An Open Letter to the Pima County Republican Women's Club

Dear Pima County Republican Women's Club members:

As members of the Pima County community, we are here today to question your decision to invite Sheriff Joe Arpaio to speak at your event. As you should be aware, Sheriff Arpaio bears much responsibility for the extremely volatile racial atmosphere in Phoenix and its outlying areas. We cannot permit this environment in Pima County, and are shocked that you would proudly applaud the efforts of the self proclaimed "America's Toughest Sheriff" on your website.

During his tenure, Sheriff Arpaio has engaged the Arizona taxpayer, and the rest of the state of Arizona, in enforcement and political measures that have not only created great racial divisions, but have cost Maricopa County more than \$41 million dollars in court fees, lawsuits, attorneys' fees, settlements, judgments, photographs of himself, videos of himself, and maintaining his personal public relations staff.

Did you know... Sheriff Arpaio has arrested hundreds of workers, and together with Andrew Thomas, has charged mothers and fathers, survivors of U.S. and global economic policies with being co-conspirators to their own smuggling, resulting in hundreds of felony convictions and prison time at taxpayer expense?

Did you know... Sheriff Arpaio has created private posses, where he has permitted Minutemen to join his sheriff deputies in wholesale racial profiling and repression, resulting in an explosive situation in Phoenix neighborhoods?

Did you know... Sheriff Arpaio has been involved in the violation of the constitutional rights of the readers of the Phoenix New Times by demanding the identity of everyone who had visited the paper's website and arresting the newspaper's leaders when they publicized what had happened?

Sheriff Joe Arpaio is not welcome in the city of Tucson, where many of us continue to work for a community that is diverse, respectful, and appreciative of each other's differences. We will not permit hatred and xenophobia in our community of Tucson. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Phoenix who must stand up for human rights on a daily basis.

Thank you,
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