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SHERIFF TEACHES INMATES TO "HAVE A HEART" BY VOLUNTEERING TO GIVE UP THEIRS

(Phoenix, AZ.) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is introducing a new jailhouse program tomorrow aimed at teaching inmates in his jail system about the meaning of life and the gift of giving.

Arpaio is asking all 10,000 male and female inmates to "have a heart" and consider voluntarily signing up to give their own hearts (and other body parts) as part of a new inmate organ donation program called "I. DO!" (*Inmates wanting to **D**onate Their **O**rgans*).

Since this is the only known detention facility with such a program, the Sheriff says he expects to face some criticism about it. But apparently it won't be from the inmates. Surprisingly, many inmates have already said yes and will line up to sign up starting Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 3:30 pm. Sign ups will begin in Tent City and move to the other facilities later in the week.

"This is about two things," Arpaio says. "One is providing an opportunity to inmates to do something good with their lives and their bodies and the other is about increasing awareness for the need for organ donations."

The Sheriff says for the last two months, the inmates have been taught about the benefits of being an organ donor through video and audio programs played in the jails as well as through informational posters placed throughout the system. Detention officers and inmate programs teachers have also been talking with inmates and answering questions.

According to donor networking websites, there are currently about 100,000 people in the U.S. who are on transplant lists including 1400 here in Arizona.

"Some may say no one would ever want an organ from a person who has been in jail," Arpaio says, "but that's baloney. If your life depends on a transplant, you don't care if it

comes from someone who spent time in jail.” The Sheriff stresses that the ultimate decision as to whether any organ is suitable for transplant is always made by a medical doctor.

On Wednesday, inmates will volunteer to give up their organs through a sign up system on the internet which feeds their information and approval directly to a donor network. Inmates will also given a preprinted postcard which they can elect to mail to family members notifying them of the inmate’s decision to be an organ donor.

Arpaio is confident the program will see many inmate volunteers. In 2001, he started an inmate program to register all inmates over the age of 18 to sign up for the selective service. Since then 28,000 including 9000 undocumented aliens have signed up to voluntarily serve in the military should they be called to duty by an act of the U.S. president.

Media is invited to talk with the Sheriff and inmates about the organ donation program on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 3:30 inside the Tent City Jail. Please meet an on call PIO and detention officer at the west gate of Tent City for entrance into the secured facility or page 602 238 8097 for more information. <<END>>



MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOSEPH M. ARPAIO
SHERIFF



January 12, 2011

Christian M. Longo
#14509855
2605 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Re: Response to October 30, 2010, Records Request received November 18, 2010,
re: Organ Donors

Dear Mr. Longo:

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is in receipt of your payment of \$5.00, Check #239464 for documentation. To the best of our knowledge, the following records are true and correct copies of the original records kept by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in the ordinary course of business.

Enclosed please find a copy of the following:

Press Release "Sheriff Teaches Inmates to 'Have a Heart' By Volunteering To Give Up Theirs. This was part of a new program called "I. Do!" (Inmates wanting to Donate Their Organs).

Please be advised of the following information in answer to your questions:

1. Effective 12/08/10 there have been 9765 inmates who have signed up to be donors since the beginning of the program which started on 06/13/07.

2. Organ Donors involve medical confidentiality which is covered by HIPPA laws. Therefore you will need to contact the Organ Donation Community for the number of inmates who have actively donated who registered through this program.

3. Yes, the program is still active.

4. The organ donation community would need to answer the question of whether or not the program has earned praise or criticism.



MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOSEPH M. ARPAIO
SHERIFF



If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to direct them to me in writing at the address printed on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Ballard" with a date "1/22/07" written below it.

Officer H. Ballard A9229
Legal Liaison
Compliance Division
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Enclosure(s)