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Thursday, October 1, 2009

Sheriff's office on new organized crime task force

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Mike Sunnucks](#)

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The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is part of a new organized crime, drug trafficking task force aimed at drug cartels and smuggling rings — after all.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix announced the group's formation Tuesday and did not list the MCSO among agencies partnering on the effort. Many of those criminal groups being sought have links to Mexico.

The FBI, Phoenix and Mesa police departments, IRS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration were listed as part of the effort.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio — who was meeting with action movie star Steven Seagal Thursday — also confirmed his agency is part of the new task force. The MCSO has been in aggressive in going after drug and human smugglers as well as undocumented workers and other illegal immigrants from Mexico.

His policies have won support from those on many fronts, but have resulted in political battles with Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, former Mesa Police Chief George Gascon and prompted a civil rights investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice.

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ken stuart October 2, 2009 1:54AM EST

Well at least we no if joe is involved more needed deportations will be pending.A refreshing change instead of the usual political posturing of pretending to be doing something about the invasion wich we so often see from the feds. Stacy better get ready to protest whaa whaa whaa

R G October 1, 2009 7:53PM EST

What does "...meeting with action movie star Steven Seagal Thursday" have to do with this? And oh, by the way, I AM going to be on the task force. Do you think Joe was consulting with Seagal about how to get more press time? To his credit though, on this task force his office will actually be doing real police work instead of arresting every hispanic janitor armed with a feather duster as a suspected illegal!

Stacy Paratore October 1, 2009 6:25PM EST

"Whaa whaaa... why didn't they include me in the list ???"

"There, there, Joey.... we'll send out another notice with your name on it... Better?"

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