

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 114

EFFECTIVE ~~ANNOUNCED~~ March 16, 2009

WHEREAS, Joe Arpaio, the sheriff for Maricopa County, Arizona, recently marched 220 undocumented immigrants through town from where they were being held in the County Jail to an outdoor "tent city" in the Arizona desert; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Arpaio widely publicized the march and invited members of the media to attend; and

WHEREAS, The decision to create the tent city has been justified as a budget measure, yet the Sheriff's Office has not provided the media or the County Board of Supervisors with any data showing savings; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Arpaio has given no justification for why undocumented immigrants should be segregated from the rest of the prison population; and

WHEREAS, Each year, one in every three days in Maricopa County the temperature reaches 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater; and

WHEREAS, Maricopa County has been known to have stretches longer than 100 consecutive days with temperatures about 90 degrees; and

WHEREAS, Temperatures in the top bunks of prison tents previously established by Sheriff Arpaio have reached greater than 150 degrees; and

WHEREAS, Prolonged exposure to extremely high heat can lead to numerous health problems or death; and

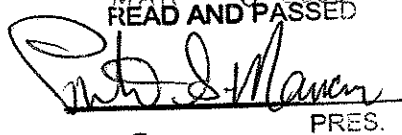
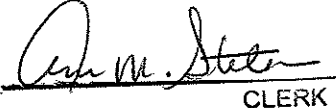
WHEREAS, Sheriff Arpaio has been the subject of many lawsuits alleging prisoner abuse and neglect, resulting in a total of \$43 million in settlements and rulings by Maricopa County to the injured parties over his tenure as sheriff; and

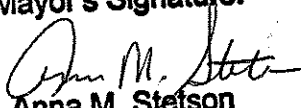
WHEREAS, Sheriff Arpaio's practices have been condemned and criticized by organizations such as Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Anti-Defamation League, Human Rights Watch, and even the conservative Goldwater Institute. Page 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby condemn Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's treatment of undocumented immigrants in his custody.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence calls upon United States Congressman John Conyers, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold hearings investigating these actions, and Sheriff Arpaio's long history of abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, copies of this resolution will be sent to Congressman Conyers and the entire Rhode Island congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 5 2009
READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:

Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk