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News Release

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Court Asked to Block Board of Supervisors from Raiding Anti-Crime Funds *Sheriff and County Attorney File Suit to Challenge Action*

Sheriff Joe Arpaio and County Attorney Andrew Thomas have asked a Superior Court judge to block the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors from unlawfully sweeping funds designated for law enforcement. A Superior Court judge will hear arguments for a Temporary Restraining Order that would prevent the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors from raiding critical special funds that were intended to be used for public safety issues. At issue is \$11 million from specialized accounts the state legislature established for law enforcement. The money was collected from fees, fines and penalties and not from taxes.

The lawsuit and temporary restraining order requested by Arpaio and Thomas would keep the Board of Supervisors from illegally raiding funds which state law reserves for specific purposes such as prosecution, law enforcement, and jail administration.

The request for the temporary restraining order states, "*None of the Encumbered Funds are part of the County's general budget fund. Likewise, none of the Encumbered Funds contain monies appropriated by the County. Rather, each of the Encumbered Funds was statutorily created or authorized by the Arizona Legislature to be used by the Plaintiffs for specific and limited purposes.*"

The Arizona Supreme Court recently struck down a similar attempt to raid funds from Arizona cities and towns. Additionally, Arizona water and power districts are challenging two funds sweep attempts by the state.

Arpaio and Thomas stated, "It is unfortunate that the Board of Supervisors voted to illegally raid funds designated for law enforcement. Their action violated a very recent ruling by the Arizona Supreme Court."

Superior Court Judge Andrew Klein is assigned to the case.

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