



## NEWS RELEASE

### BACKGROUND

#### About the Drug Recognition Expert Training Program and the RCMP

- The Drug Recognition Expert Training program is a nationally coordinated course by the RCMP in Headquarters, Ottawa, for all law enforcement agencies in Canada;
- The partnership with Maricopa County has taken place for years, with Maricopa County police officer trainers teaching officers in Canada, and Canadian police officers going to Maricopa County jail for “field certification” in the Maricopa County jail;
- The RCMP (nationally) constitutes 18% of course candidates, with the majority of candidates coming from various law enforcement agencies (municipal and provincial) across Canada;
- The course was coordinated by the RCMP from National Headquarters;
- The RCMP had planned six workshops, each three weeks long, between April 2012 and March 2013 to approximately 200 RCMP, provincial and municipal police officers in Maricopa County;
- Part of the motivation of the RCMP to train in a foreign jurisdiction was that the training was much cheaper than could be delivered in Canada;
- Maricopa County still trains 85% of all drug-recognition experts in North America.

#### About the actions of the Federal Department of Justice and the MCSO

- [The Federal Department of Justice report is available, in full, here;](#)
- The report was sent to the Maricopa County Attorney on December 15, 2011;
- During the investigation, the Federal Department of Justice uncovered serious allegations of “deputies using excessive force against Latinos” and “[failed] to investigate a large number of sex crimes.”

- The DOJ investigation found Latino drivers were four to nine times more likely to be stopped by MCSO officers than non-Latino drivers;
- The DOJ investigation also found that people who filed complaints against MCSO officers or practices were subjected to “retaliatory detentions and arrests without cause, unfounded civil lawsuits, and other baseless complaints;”
- The DOJ has threatened to sue the MCSO if they do not immediately comply with a federally judicially overseen process to reform the department’s practices immediately.