



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Lack of Federal Prosecution Impacting County Taxpayers

Location of Incident: Yuma County, AZ

In 2014, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO), along with the Yuma County Attorney's Office, were presented with a challenging situation when they were forced to undertake responsibility for prosecuting undocumented immigrants smuggling marijuana into Yuma County. This responsibility was only assumed by the YCSO and the County Attorney's Office because the United States Attorney's Office refused to prosecute the drug smugglers. Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot's commitment to enforcing Arizona State laws did not allow the criminals to go unprosecuted, and the Sheriff's Office absorbed the costs of housing the inmates.

The lack of Federal prosecution has cost the local taxpayers over \$2 million to incarcerate 293 smugglers interdicted by Border Patrol and Homeland Security from 2015 through 2018. The smugglers were arrested on state charges for felony drug smuggling. The combined prisoner incarceration stay was over 30,000 days, which averaged to 102.5 days per prisoner in local custody while the cases were adjudicated. If Sheriff Wilmot had not intervened, these criminals would have otherwise been released with no charges by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and would have been free to continue their criminal activity. Instead, those drug smugglers received on average 2.5 years in prison.

The YCSO now finds itself in a similar predicament once again. Within the last week, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested 15 undocumented immigrants that were apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol smuggling narcotics. No longer are these smugglers carrying marijuana through the remote desert; they are now bringing methamphetamine by the hundreds of pounds. These are individuals making a conscience decision to smuggle narcotics into our country, camouflaging themselves to avoid detection. In many cases, those carrying drugs are claiming their participation is the price they must pay to the cartels for passage into the United States. It is the drug cartels that control the border crossers and exploit them and extort them for thousands of dollars each. The smugglers have been booked into the Yuma County Detention Center on State charges after the U.S. Attorney is again declining to prosecute. Once again, the local taxpayer is left to shoulder the cost, a burden which should be borne by the Federal Government.

Sheriff Wilmot is 100% committed to seeing that these criminals are prosecuted. If the Federal Government does not hold them accountable for their illegal actions and the danger their smuggled drugs present to our nation, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office will. Sheriff Wilmot would like to urge the public to take action by contacting their elected representatives by mail or phone in order to demand border security and the enforcement of laws. The contact information for Arizona's elected representatives is included in this document.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. House of Representatives (Cont.)

Debbie Lesko - District 8

Washington, D.C. Office

1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-4576

Surprise Office

12515 W. Bell Road, Suite 104
Surprise, AZ 85378
Tel: (623) 776-7911

Greg Stanton - District 9

Washington, D.C. Office

207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-9888

Phoenix Office

2944 N. 44th Street, Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Tel: (602) 956-2463



aba: 04/28/2021

A Message from Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot

As your Sheriff, I am committed to serving all citizens of Yuma County and to providing for public safety. Many citizens have contacted me to express a growing sense of frustration with the lack of border security and the impact it is having on our community. I am providing the list of contacts for Arizona's elected representatives and I urge you to contact each of these public servants and demand that they stand for border security and the rule of law.

I appreciate the support of our citizens and the trust they place in my Office. However, I must caution those who feel that they have no choice but to take the law into their own hands. Contacting your elected representatives is the most productive and best approach to changing this unfortunate situation.



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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Yuma, AZ 85364
Phone: 928-783-4427
Fax: 928-329-0309

Contacting Your Arizona Elected Representatives



Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot "Dedicated to Service"

Tel: (928) 783-4427
www.yumacountysheriff.org



United States Senators

Senator Kyrsten Sinema

Washington, D.C. Office
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: (202) 224-4521

Phoenix Office
3333 East Camelback Road, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Tel: (602) 598-7327

Tucson Office
20 E. Ochoa Street
Tucson, AZ 85701
Tel: (520) 639-7080

Senator Mark Kelly

Washington, D.C. Office
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Suite B40B
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: (202) 224-2235

Phoenix Office
2201 E. Camelback Road, Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Tel: (602) 671-7901

Tucson Office
407 W. Congress Street, Suite 103
Tucson, AZ 85701
Tel: (520) 475-5177

U. S. House of Representatives

Tom O'Halloran - District 1

Washington, D.C. Office
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-3316

Flagstaff
405 N. Beaver, Suite 6
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Tel: (928) 286-5338

Ann Kirkpatrick - District 2

Washington, D.C. Office
309 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2542

Tucson Office
1636 North Swan Road, Suite 200
Tucson, AZ 85712
Tel: (520) 881-3588

Raul Grijalva - District 3

Washington, D.C. Office
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2435

Somerton Office
146 N. State Avenue / P.O. Box 4105
Somerton, AZ 85350
Tel: (928) 343-7933

Paul Gosar - District 4

Washington, D.C. Office
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2315

Paul Gosar - District 4 (Cont.)

Prescott Office
122 N. Cortez Street, Suite 104
Prescott, AZ 86301
Tel: (928) 445-1683

Andy Biggs - District 5

Washington, D.C. Office
171 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2635

Mesa Office
2509 S. Power Road #204
Superstition Plaza
Mesa, AZ 85209
Tel: (480) 699-8239

David Schweikert - District 6

Washington, D.C. Office
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2190

Scottsdale Office
14500 N. Northside Blvd., Suite 221
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Tel: (480) 946-2411

Ruben Gallego - District 7

Washington, D.C. Office
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix Office
1601 North 7th Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Tel: (602) 256-0551