

Oro Valley Police Department

Who is in charge: Daniel Sharp.

Where he stands: The department developed racial profiling and immigration-related standards in 2004. “That’s something that had been on our radar screen for a long time, so when SB 1070 came along, we already had the protocols in place.”

How it’s documented: Classifies most referrals and assists to immigration authorities as “other agency assists,” a category that doesn’t include cases where a more serious crime was suspected because the system codes incidents by worst offense.

What the Star reviewed: Reviewed reports in all 71 cases involving Border Patrol going back to August 2010 that turned up in an analyst search using a keyword search for “Border Patrol.”



Daniel Sharp

Overview

Sworn officers: 97

Documented immigration-related incidents since SB 1070 took effect provided: 17

Share of total incidents: <1%

Findings

- The department participates in Operation Stonegarden, a task-force program in which the Department of Homeland Security pays local police to work overtime on immigration-related enforcement. Of the 17 cases in which people were referred to Border Patrol since the immigration-check requirement took effect, 12 were connected to those deployments.
- Most of the other cases involved traffic violations — speeding, not pulling into the closest available lane, an insurance cancellation, a license plate partially obscured by a ball hitch. There have been no immigration-related incidents in Oro Valley since February.
- Officers contacted Border Patrol outside of special operations 35 times in the past three years. In one case, the officer released a couple because an immigration agent would take an hour and a half to get there.
- Sharp requires that supervisors decide whether to call Border Patrol. The measure is partly intended to ensure his relatively small police force doesn’t get bogged down in low-priority jobs.