

# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**Who is in charge:** Robert Halliday

**Where he stands:** He didn't agree to an interview with the Star, but has in the past said he didn't want officers to change what they do. He has expressed concern about how the required inquiries might affect officers assigned to rural areas without cell phone coverage or other officers nearby.

**How it's documented:** When an officer suspects someone is in the country illegally, he fills out a form with details of the stop.

**What the Star reviewed:** A database of all statewide traffic stops over a year and the related immigration-check database.

## Findings

- The department had by far the most comprehensive and uniform data of the agencies the Star reviewed.
- The data highlighted the role of officer discretion. The same set of facts – for example, a lack of valid U.S. ID – was interpreted by some officers as grounds for an immigration check, but by others as inadequate for meeting the standard for a call. Some officers seemed relatively eager to sidestep calling, whereas others noted leaving several messages for immigration authorities, but getting no response.
- Officers called immigration authorities on about four of every 10 people they suspected of unlawful status.
- They regularly took into account federal priorities in deciding whether to call. If a child was present, a school was nearby or the call involved a single person in a rural area, officers were less likely to do a check.
- Some officers complained about a lack of federal cooperation. Agents took too long to arrive or declined to pick up about 18 percent of the people DPS officers called about.
- About 95 percent of the people officers suspected were Hispanic.
- The vast majority of the times officers suspected unlawful status involved traffic stops, but officers called immigration authorities about a pedestrian about 20 times.
- By far the most common violation leading to a check was speeding. Those stopped for that reason were commonly also cited for not having a license.



**Robert Halliday**

## Overview

Sworn officers: 1,100

Immigration-related incidents the year after SB 1070 took effect that the agency provided: 1,269

Share of total incidents: <1%