

# Pinal County Sheriff's Office

**Who's in charge:** Paul Babeu.

**Where he stands:** Didn't agree to an interview, but was one of the most vocal advocates and founder of a sheriff's group created to help fight lawsuits that sought to overturn the law.

**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 of-fense.

**What the Star reviewed:** Document showing the frequency of the calls going back three years and reviewed 16 reports from 2013 categorized as deputy-initiated.

## Overview

Sworn officers: 213

Total documented immigration incidents in year after SB 1070 took effect provided: 168

Share of total incidents: Total incidents not provided; request submitted Dec. 2.

## Findings

- Under department policy, deputies are supposed to check the status of everyone arrested, but the number of other-agency assists in the 14 months after SB 1070 took effect matches nearly exactly the number of those calls during the 14 months prior to the law.
- All of the 16 cases the Star reviewed involved a request from assistance from another agency — the Border Patrol, the Bureau of Land Management or Casa Grande Police Department. Incidents involved issuing traffic citations after Border Patrol pulled over a vehicle, pursuing vehicles used to re-supply smugglers out in the desert and investigating the theft of a gun from an elderly man who provided medical assistance to a migrant.
- In general, the reports provided some of the most comprehensive explanations of officers' actions of those the Star reviewed. Unlike many agencies' reports, Pinal's included related call notes.



**Paul Babeu**

**Note:** Sheriff Babeu has cooperated with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio on a high-profile immigration sweep, but he declined, through his spokesman, to be interviewed in person or over the phone on the effects SB 1070. The Star submitted multiple interview requests over a period of three months. His spokesman said the sheriff was too busy to do an interview but would review questions submitted in writing. The Star declined in fairness to agency leaders who agreed to meet with us.