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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MULTI-JURISDICTION GANG ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

June 23, 2011

Garfield County, Colorado: As a result of the lies and false propaganda released by Brenon Greene, of the Colorado Immigration Rights Coalition, the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is releasing additional facts and quotes regarding the joint operation with ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) last weekend at the Strawberry Days event in Glenwood Springs. No arrests occurred on Father's Day, June 19th, as was inaccurately reported by Brenon Greene, of the Colorado Immigration Rights Coalition.

Two arrests and one summons, in lieu of arrest, were made. Unforeseen family circumstances were taken into consideration by local law enforcement and Cesar Armando Alvarez-Cortez was summonsed in lieu of being taken into custody. Upon arrival at the mobile command center, it was confirmed that Cesar Armando Alvarez-Cortez was in the country illegally. He was summonsed and released due to an expired work authorization card and was found to have no prior Deportations.

The two other suspects, David Centeno and Julio Armando Alvarez-Cortez have considerable arrests and deportation records, contradicting information previously released by Brenon Greene, of the Colorado Immigration Rights Coalition.

Their history includes:

David Centeno, AKA: Adrian Centeno

9/04/2002 - Carrying a concealed weapon (misdemeanor)

6/10/2003 - Carry/possess weapon on school grounds (felony) and Larceny (felony)

7/16/2005 - Larceny (misdemeanor), Fraud-impersonation (Felony), False Reporting-False Identification (misdemeanor), Theft (misdemeanor)

7/25/2005 - 0399 Immigration violation

11/10/2006 - Fugitive other jurisdiction (FTA traffic)

11/17/2006 - 0399 Immigration violation

2/17/2007 - Re-entry after deportation and illegal entry

5/15/2008 - Re-entry of removed Alien

6/06/2008 - Illegal entry and re-entry of a previously deported felon
6/18/2011 – Possession of Narcotic equipment (misdemeanor), marijuana possession, resisting (misdemeanor), fugitive other jurisdiction/FTA Drove without license
6/19/11 - Forgery possession, 1st degree instrument and fugitive other jurisdiction FTP DUR

Federally Prosecuted

2007 for Illegal Entry 30 days Federal Prison;
07/2005 – Deported
09/2006 – Deported
11/2006 – Deported
05/2008 – Deported

Julio Armando Alvarez-Cortez

Criminal History

5/2/2005 - Criminal: Guilty Plea - DWAI

Federally Prosecuted

2/26/2001 - Immigration: Expedited Removal/Deportation from the United States

Garfield County Sheriff, Lou Vallario, has made it clear that the Garfield County communities will not tolerate illegal gang activity. “We will utilize the necessary tools that are available to us, including federal law enforcement, to eradicate these criminals. It was no more complex than that,” states Sheriff Vallario.

TAG (Threat Assessment Group), a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement team, identified this joint operation as gang enforcement, not an immigration roundup. Any contacts in regards to this operation, were made because they were either flying gang colors or a known gang member.

Friday, June 17th, 2011:

- Contacts were made with known and suspected gang members
- No one was arrested during the carnival

Saturday, June 18th, 2011

- Contacts were made with known and suspected gang members
- Contact was made with David Centeno via a consensual encounter with ICE
- ICE agents were on scene and confirmed via Mr. Centeno that he was in the US illegally and was a prior deportee.
- It was confirmed that Mr. Centeno had outstanding local warrants and was informed he was being placed under arrest by the Glenwood Springs Police Department. At that time he resisted arrest and ran from officers
- Mr. Centeno is in local custody for outstanding warrants and has an ICE detainer
- Mr. Centeno has been deported from the US on four prior occasions and was prosecuted federally in 2007 for illegal entry
- Contact was made later in the evening with Julio and Cesar Alvarez via a consensual encounter with ICE. Reports from their family stated that they were arrested in front of their children. That was false information used to misinform the public. When the two men were contacted; Julio’s wife approached officers and said she did not know where the children were. Carnival security was then contacted to help locate their children.

- Julio and Cesar were requested to continue speaking with officers at the mobile command center. They agreed, and of their own choice, walked to the command center several hundred yards away. Neither person was in cuffs or under arrest at this time.
- Upon arrival at the mobile command center, it was confirmed that Julio was a prior deportee from the US in 2001.
- He was informed he was being placed in ICE custody at that time.
- Julio does have a criminal conviction for DUI.

Julio's wife was present at the carnival and did not have any children with her at the time. She was with one of her cousins and was visibly upset about the contact and kept mentioning that she had paid an attorney she named as Ted Hess \$800 a month to help them. Garfield County Sheriff's Office deputies called an ambulance on her behalf to assure her safety. Julio's wife returned to the carnival after a visit to the hospital and was allowed to talk to her husband again and give him food. Julio was held in local detention until he was transported to Eagle County Jail for overnight detention. It was not until he had to be transported that he was placed in handcuffs. His wife and cousin were allowed to talk to him several times before he was transported that evening.

Cesar Armando Alvarez-Cortez explained to officers that his wife had died several years prior and he was a single father of two daughters. Neither daughter was present at any time. After talking with officers, Cesar was told he could go. At no time was he under arrest. Radio reports stated that he may not have gotten his Father's day present. He was not in custody on Fathers Day.

Sunday, June 19th, 2011 Fathers day

- No operations were conducted.

Monday June 20, 2011

- No operations were conducted

TAG also contacted approximately twenty other gang members. Law enforcement made their presence known and had any gang member flying colors, bandannas or gang related clothing remove them while at the fair. The Sheriff's Office felt that this was very successful in keeping the fair a safe place for families to enjoy time together.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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