



PRESS RELEASE

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South Tucson Police Department

The South Tucson Police Department in partnership with the Pima County Attorney's Office 88-CRIME, Crime Stopper Program will be holding a press conference to announce a continuing partnership to prevent the use and sale of illegal drugs and related crimes. This anti-drug neighborhood initiative will require that 20 signs be installed in neighborhoods to encourage Citizens to report illegal drug activities to 88-CRIME and/or 911. Signs will be placed on City property where illegal drugs have been known to be sold. South Tucson Police designed these new anti-drug signs incorporating the 88-CRIME phone number and installed 12 signs last July 2004. These signs are all still up and the community response to this innovative anti-drug effort and the placement of the signs has been positive. The signs read, "DRUG FREE – High Profile Enforcement Area – Violations In This Area Will Be Aggressively Prosecuted. SIN DROGAS - Área al frente de la Ejecución de la ley. Violaciones en esta área seran agresivamente enjuiciados. They are printed in English on one side and in Spanish on the other.

A Pre-Event Briefing for Participants and Press Conference will be Held At 8:00 a.m. on April 2, 2005, at the South Tucson Police Department located at 1601 S. 6TH Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona. The event will end with the planting of two Jacaranda Mimosifolia "anti-drug" trees at Food City located at 2950 S. 6th Avenue at 12:00 p.m. The trees will be planted as a symbolic gesture of "good will" in our effort to work together as a community to help fight drugs by reporting violations to 911 and/or 88-CRIME. The Pueblo High School mariachi group "Aztlán" will contribute to the spirit of "good will" and community effort by singing and playing traditional Mariachi music for participants from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Food City following the planting of the anti-drug trees. There is no cost to see this performance and the media and general public are encouraged to attend. Participants will include volunteers and Members from Food City, South Tucson Police Explorers and the South Tucson Public Works Department. Also joining this effort for the second time will be Officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety (Gang Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GITEM) and Deputy United States Marshals from the United States Marshal's Service in Tucson, Arizona and probation officers from Pima County Adult Probation "Operation Spotlight" located next to the Food City Store.

South Tucson Public Works personnel will provide a crew to install the signs which were made by the Arizona Correctional Industries at the Arizona State Prison complex in Tucson. Officers and Police Explorers of the South Tucson Police Department along with Food City Members, GITEM and US Marshals will pass out 88-CRIME fliers to residents explaining the anti-drug effort.

"Food City" is hosting lunch and refreshments to all participants and media at 12:00 p.m.

The public IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 88-CRIME - CRIME STOPPER PROGRAM @ 882-7463 OR 911. CALLS TO 88-CRIME ARE ANONYMOUS AND MAY LEAD TO A CASH REWARD.

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