



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2017

Contact: Amanda Bosquez, abosquez@naleo.org
(202) 546-2536, (361) 548-6989 (cell)

Presidential Pardon for Former Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio Is Unconscionable Assault on Our Democracy and Rule of Law

A pardon undermines the public's trust in the justice system by excusing flagrant violations of the law by an individual who was elected to uphold it

Excusing illegal behavior by Arpaio sends message to Americans that racial targeting and discriminatory behavior by law enforcement and other officials is acceptable

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today issued the following statement in strong opposition to President Donald J. Trump's presidential pardon of former Maricopa County (Ariz.) Sheriff Joseph Arpaio:

"The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) strongly opposes President Donald Trump's presidential pardon of former Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

"A pardon for Arpaio is an endorsement of racism from the highest office in the land—signaling to Americans that discriminatory behavior and a blatant disregard for the judicial process is acceptable. This kind of act is an extraordinary intervention in our justice system that threatens the public's faith in law enforcement and the rule of law.

"Arpaio was convicted of criminal contempt of court for refusing to obey a federal judge's order to cease unconstitutional immigration enforcement actions that resulted in the racial profiling of Latinos by his department. These actions are among Arpaio's long-standing history of targeting the Latino community throughout his career. Under Arpaio's leadership, his department was found to have systematically violated the rights of Latinos in Maricopa County by both the U.S. Justice Department in 2011 and a federal court in 2013.

"As a leadership organization that represents the nation's more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials, we know firsthand how important it is that Americans have trust in our judicial system, the rule of law, and the individuals tasked with enforcing them.

"By pardoning Arpaio, President Trump is turning his back on the values we hold dear as a nation and continuing a pattern of behavior that demonstrates a profound disrespect for the significant contributions Latinos and immigrants make to this country every day.

"This attack on our democracy and values will not be tolerated. We call on elected and appointed officials from across the country to join us by voicing their opposition to this presidential pardon that will grant Arpaio immunity from facing any penalties dictated by the court for his illegal actions during his time in office.

"NALEO and its Latino leadership will not stay silent as our community is attacked and the foundation of our democracy is undermined through this executive intervention. We will continue to stand up for the rights of Latinos and all Americans, and to combat any policies and actions that aim to divide instead of unite the nation."

###

About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials.