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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Roberto A. Villaseñor**  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 10/11/2013  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### **ARREST OF PROTESTERS FREEWAY AND SIMPSON STREET**

At approximately 08:00 A.M. this morning in the area of Simpson and Freeway, a group of well-organized protestors orchestrated a maneuver using vehicles to stop two United States Border Patrol prisoner transport buses. There were approximately 70 prisoners between the two buses who were scheduled to appear today in United States District Court at 405 W. Congress as part of the United States Border Patrol's "Operation Streamline." After the protestors' vehicles successfully stopped the two transport buses in the roadway, a group of approximately 12 protestors surrounded the buses and physically locked themselves to the vehicles around the wheels using "Dragon Sleeves." (These sleeves are commonly used by protestors to thwart efforts by law enforcement officers to remove protestors during demonstrations.) After locking themselves to both transport buses, approximately 50 more protestors arrived at the location with signs chanting and posting banners on the buses while standing in and along the roadway. The east side Interstate 10 frontage road was completely shut down to all traffic between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Granada as a result of this. A smaller group consisting of at least seven protestors "Dragon Sleeved" themselves across the entrance to United States District Court blocking ingress and egress to the Court at this location as the buses were halted on the frontage road. Tucson Police Department Officers were called to the protest scenes along with Federal and State agencies.

Conversations with attorneys observing the protestors occurred in an attempt to find ways to communicate effectively with these protestors; and to ultimately bring about a peaceful resolution to this demonstration while restoring access to United States District Court. These prisoners, at least eight of whom were facing felony charges, were on the buses restrained with no access to restroom facilities or other comfort necessities. After more than three hours of work by members of the Tucson Police Department and Arizona Department of Public Safety Device Removal Squads, officers were able to successfully remove the "Dragon Sleeves" from the protestors freeing the buses.

As a result of the actions of these protestors, United States District Court cancelled and rescheduled all court appearances for those delayed by this group. The group interfered with the prisoners' due process rights in United States District Court. The actions of the protestors created additional safety concerns to the operators and staff on these buses by heightening the risk to everyone involved. The release of the majority of these prisoners from custody was further delayed as a direct result of the actions of all of the individuals named in this release. All (18) of those arrested were charged with a violation of Arizona Revised Statute 13-2512, Hindering Prosecution-a class 5 felony. Additional



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misdemeanor charges are pending. All those arrested today by the Tucson Police Department were booked into the Pima County Jail.

The protestors at United States District Court were on Federal property and therefore under the jurisdiction of the United States Marshalls Service. This group voluntarily unlinked themselves and left the area prior to any arrests being made by Federal officials.

In addition to Tucson Police and Fire Department personnel and resources, assistance was provided by the United States Border Patrol, United States Marshalls Service, Arizona Department of Public Safety, United States District Court and other Federal officials. There were no reports of any significant injuries or medical issues during this incident.

**Arrestees and ages:**

Carlos Garcia 30  
Paula Ann Miller 43  
James D. Wells 30  
John Heid 58  
Maryanne Esther Vallet 30  
Gabriel Matthew Schivone 29  
Genevieve Ellis Beck-Roe 21  
Alexandra Nicole Sabo 26  
Angelica Moreno Loreto 31  
Devora Gonzalez 24  
Charles Edward Kaufman 61  
Michelle Marie Jahnke 23  
Stephen Russell Johnston 68  
Paula Lee McPheeters 60  
Julia Mihich Harden 20  
Sarah Anne Launius 34  
Ethan John Beasley 42  
Sandra Castro Solis 25

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