

***For Immediate Release***

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**Narco-State Image Could Impact AZ's Economic Recovery**

**CHANDLER, Az** – Accelerating national coverage of the violent drug wars expanding across the border into Phoenix could impede Arizona's economic come back.

In December, National Geographic ran a special "Narco State" that portrayed the drug related violent crimes in Phoenix as surpassing El Paso's. The CNBC financial news channel picked up on the airing as an alarming development, which was repeatedly mentioned throughout their broadcast. In February, the LA Times started a series, "The Heroin Road" that identified Phoenix as a main staging area for heroin trafficking across the country.

The increase in national attention labeling Phoenix as the capital of kidnappings, human trafficking, and drug cartels could impact the next phase of the region's economic turn-around if it becomes a prominent factor for companies and people considering relocation to Arizona.

Recently, Phoenix Metro cities reported a decrease in crime in 2009 and a 17% drop in undocumented immigrant population. Local officials credit new strategies, crime task forces, and immigration policies for the decline. Whether the direction of crime changed permanently or correlates to temporary economic conditions will weigh on future regional outlooks.

On March 9, Dr. Jeffrey G. Hynes, Commander with the Phoenix Police Department, and Alberto Melis, Chief of Police from Douglas, Arizona, will discuss the latest trends in Phoenix and the border towns at "The Future of Crime in Arizona" presented by the Arizona Futurists Chapter of the World Future Society.

The special presentation was arranged to provide insight into possible future developments that businesses, civic planners and policy makers should consider in their regional projections. The Arizona Futurists' meeting will be held March 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the University of Advancing Technology, in the Auditorium, 2625 W. Baseline Rd., Tempe, Arizona. The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, go to [AZWFS@alsekresearch.com](mailto:AZWFS@alsekresearch.com). For more information about the AZ Chapter of the World Future Society, contact Joan Foltz at (480) 756-8449 or [www.AZFuturists.org](http://www.AZFuturists.org).

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