



**RICARDO RODRIGUEZ, JR.**  
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, August 16, 2019

**RGV law enforcement agencies will join in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “No Refusal” weekend to combat drinking and driving over the Labor Day holiday**

**EDINBURG** – Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. and Hidalgo County Sheriff J.E. “Eddie” Guerra, along with all law enforcement agencies from the Rio Grande Valley, Cameron County Criminal District Attorney Luis V. Saenz, Starr County Criminal District Attorney Omar Escobar Jr., and Willacy County Criminal District Attorney Annette C. Hinojosa will present a unified front in combatting drinking and driving by participating in the No Refusal weekend over the Labor Day holiday.

The crackdown by municipal, county, and state law enforcement agencies will run Thursday, Aug. 29 through Monday, Sept. 2.

“This No Refusal weekend sends a clear message to the residents of Hidalgo County; do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle while intoxicated,” said Rodriguez. “During this Labor Day weekend, every law enforcement agency will go above and beyond to keep our roads, our communities, and our residents safe by finding individuals operating a motor vehicle on our roads while intoxicated.”

In recent months and years, Willacy County residents have been tragically affected by individuals who chose to drink and drive, said Hinojosa.

“We have witnessed the need to become more proactive and increase our efforts to help make not only Willacy County, but the entire Valley a safer community,” said Hinojosa. “And so we remind you, as you plan your Labor Day weekend, to make good choices and keep your family safe, on the road, and on the water. The consequences of a bad choice can be life changing. That choice is yours. But if you refuse a breath or blood test on a DWI investigation, we will be ready for you.”

Starr County has also witnessed the tragic and disastrous consequences of driving while intoxicated, said Escobar.

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**5<sup>th</sup> Annual No Refusal Weekend**  
**Page 2 of 2**  
**Friday, Aug. 16, 2019**

"I am proud to stand with our neighboring district attorneys and all members of the law enforcement community in this effort against persons who drive while intoxicated. Drinking and driving is a choice, not an accident," said Escobar. "However, this is no longer just a law enforcement issue. It is a community issue. If you know someone is drinking, don't let them drive. If you suspect someone is drinking and driving, call it in to law enforcement. We must all do our part to keep our roads safe."

Cameron County enforces a No Refusal policy year-round, said Saenz.

"I am pleased to lend support to Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez and Hidalgo County law enforcement during their 'No Refusal' period this Labor Day weekend," said Saenz. "As a 'No Refusal' county year-round, we look forward to seeing the same positive results this will yield for Hidalgo County, keeping drunk drivers off the streets and residents safe on the roads."

During the crackdown, anyone who refuses to provide a breath sample is subject to blood testing at the scene, a medical facility, or nearest jail facility. Magistrates will be on hand to issue search warrants and health care workers will be on stand-by for the blood work.

- WHO:** Hidalgo County DA Ricardo Rodriguez Jr.; Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra; Cameron County Criminal District Attorney Luis V. Saenz and Sheriff Omar Lucio; Starr County Criminal District Attorney Omar Escobar Jr. and Sheriff Rene "Orta" Fuentes; Willacy County Criminal District Attorney Annette C. Hinojosa and Sheriff Larry Spence; Law Enforcement Agencies from throughout the Rio Grande Valley; Mothers Against Drunk Driving, TxDOT, and others.
- WHAT:** No Refusal Weekend Kick-Off and News Conference
- WHEN:** 10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 22
- WHERE:** Pharr Events Center, 3000 N Cage Blvd., in Pharr.

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**Photo:** Save the Date.