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**September 21, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

HIDALGO COUNTY TO RECEIVE TWO “BEST PRACTICES AWARDS” FROM TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

We invite you to join us at a special awards presentation during Commissioners’ Court on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. The Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation will present Hidalgo County with two “Best Practices” Awards.

Hidalgo County is one of only 13 Texas counties being honored this year for innovative programs that deliver quality services and protect taxpayer dollars. This award recognizes county initiatives that serve as a model to other local governments.

The first award presented will be for community improvement for the county’s efforts to build the levee-barrier as opposed to a border wall. The second award presented will be for delivery of health and human services for the county’s efforts to reach out the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in times of emergency. This is a joint award between Hidalgo and Cameron counties.

“This is the first time in the history of the TAC Leadership Foundation Best Practices Awards that Hidalgo County has been recognized,” said Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas III. “When our office set its internal priorities, we said to ourselves that we wanted to achieve this high level of service, to set an example for county governments around the state. And we achieved our goal not once but twice with two awards.

“The county judge’s office can hardly take credit for these programs though. These programs that are being recognized were the result of innovation, diligence and out-of-the-box thinking on the part of so many departments county-wide — the drainage district, the commissioners and precincts, our budget and auditing departments, our health department and the emergency services division. We are so proud that the TAC Leadership Foundation is highlighting Hidalgo County’s programs, which are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the staff here,” Judge Salinas said.

What: Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation “Best Practices” Award Presentation

When: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009

Where: Meeting of the Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court, 100 E. Cano, 1st Floor, Edinburg

Who: Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court, TAC Field Services Representative Mary Ann Saenz, Deaf Link president Alton Powell, and other special guests

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We’re blogging at www.judgejd.net

We’re on Twitter: [hcpio](#) or [jdsalinas3](#)