



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Everardo "Ever" Villarreal
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
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RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

County Judge Richard F. Cortez invites President Biden to tour the border

EDINBURG – As the May 23 deadline to end Title 42 approaches, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez sent a letter to President Joe Biden inviting him to visit Hidalgo County before the Administration “makes any substantial changes to current border policy.”

The 2-page letter, dated May 2, 2022, explains to the President that Hidalgo County is situated “at unique crossroads of national security and economic considerations.” In detailing that Hidalgo County was impacted particularly hard by COVID-19, Cortez tells the President of his concerns about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s April 1, 2022, determination that Title 42 was no longer necessary.

“President Biden, as a public servant in a border community I must implore you to visit our region before the existing Order is suspended,” Cortez wrote.

Cortez acknowledged that, based on the experience before Title 42 was implemented, any surge in immigration coming from Mexico will ultimately impact the entire country, but said the impact on border communities will be felt immediately.

“We bear the responsibility of welcoming, treating, and caring for these migrants even as we struggle to care for the less fortunate in our community,” Cortez wrote. Historically, before Title 42 was implemented, he wrote, “the negative consequences are expected to be real and immediate for American Citizens living in border communities across the Southwest.”

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus