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HIDALGO COUNTY COMMENCES "OPERATION: CLEAN SLATE"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Edinburg, Texas – This morning, Hidalgo County officials debuted the online portal in an effort to collect on an estimated \$35 million in outstanding fines and fees owed to Hidalgo County Justices of the Peace over the past ten years, Hidalgo County will kick off its "Operation: Clean Slate" initiative Thursday morning.

"Operation: Clean Slate" consists of an online, searchable database where residents can verify whether they owe money and pay their outstanding debt online with a valid credit card. The online portal will run for sixty days, allowing residents to clear their name before further consequences ensue, up to and including holds placed on driver's license renewals and motor vehicle registration.

This project came together by the hard work and dedication of a committee that spearheaded the planning and implementation of Operation Clean Slate. The committee began planning earlier this year, and was tasked with multiple responsibilities, including identifying a solution to allow for the collection of outstanding debt, ensuring the accuracy of the data and cleaning up JP records, and initiating a public awareness and outreach component.



The committee consisted of representatives from County Judge Ramon Garcia, County Commissioner Pct 4 Joseph Palacios, District Attorney Rene Guerra, the Collections Department for County Clerk Arturo Guajardo & District Clerk Laura Hinojosa, County Justices of the Peace, County Constables, and various other County offices and departments.

County officials encourage all Hidalgo County residents to check the site, and clear their slate, before it's too late!

WEBSITE:
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/cleanslate

INFO HOTLINE:
1-888-223-1137

Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

Joel Quintanilla
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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