

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Aug. 31, 2015

D.A. and Sheriff launch “No Refusal” weekend for the Labor Day holiday

EDINBURG – Surrounded by representatives from every law enforcement agency in Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. and Hidalgo County Sheriff J.E. “Eddie” Guerra will announce a crackdown on suspected drunk drivers at a news conference set for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 at the Hidalgo County Courthouse.

The crackdown will take place during Labor Day weekend (Thursday, Sept. 3 to Monday, Sept. 7) and is part of the DA’s “No Refusal Policy.” During these five days, suspected drunk drivers will be required to provide a breath sample or blood test.

“We want to get people who drink and drive off the roads,” said Rodriguez. “Keeping our communities safe is our top priority.”

During the “No Refusal” weekend, judges will assist by quickly providing “blood draw warrants” for drivers who refuse blood alcohol content (BAC) testing. Joining in the news conference will be police chiefs from throughout Hidalgo County, Commissioners Court members, and representatives from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Transportation, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

“With the approval of a search warrant signed by a judge, anyone who unlawfully refuses to provide a breath sample is subject to blood testing on the scene, a medical facility, or nearest jail facility,” Rodriguez said. Aiding in the judge signing the warrants will be a magistrate who is a licensed attorney.

WHO: DA Ricardo Rodriguez Jr., Sheriff J.E. “Eddie” Guerra, Police Chiefs from Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elgin, Hidalgo, La Joya, La Villa, McAllen, Mercedes Mission, Palmhurst, Palmview, Benitas, Pharr, Progresso, San Juan, Sullivan City, and Weslaco, DPS Capt. Arturo De La Garza, Hidalgo County Constables Pct. 1 Celestino Avila Jr., Pct. 2 Martin Cantu, Pct. 3 Lazaro “Larry” Gallardo, Pct. 4 Atanacio “JR” Gaitan, Hidalgo County Commissioners Pct. 1, A.C. Cuellar, Pct. 2 Eduardo “Eddie” Cantu, Pct. 3, Joe Flores, Pct. 4 Joseph Palacios, Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia, TX DOT representative Ruby Martinez, and Ana Verley with Mothers Against Drunk Driving

WHAT: No Refusal Weekend in Hidalgo County, Sept. 3-7

WHEN: 9-9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 1

WHERE: Hidalgo County Courthouse, 100 N. Clossner in Edinburg (east entrance)

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. 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.

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In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Edinburg City Auditorium.



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