



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Public Affairs Division
Julia Benitez Sullivan
Director

100 E. Cano Street, First Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 292-7026

www.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Contact: Julia Benitez Sullivan
Phone: 956.292.7026
Email: julia.sullivan@co.hidalgo.tx.us

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, February 19, 2016

2016 Great Texas Warrant Round Up: Hidalgo County DA offers amnesty to offenders who pay their fees and fines before March 5

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County law enforcement officials announced that they will join other law enforcement agencies statewide in aggressively pursuing individuals who have not paid overdue fees and fines in the Justice of the Peace courts.

In addition, Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. said the individuals targeted during the round up, will be offered a one-time amnesty from arrest when they voluntarily pay their fines prior to March 5, when the round up begins.

"We are targeting 28,218 warrants that total \$8.8 million in fines," Rodriguez said. "Before the warrant round up begins, notices will be mailed to the defendants with outstanding warrants pending against them."

All four county Constables and eight Justices of the Peace are participating in the amnesty program. During the round up, authorities warn that arrests can take place at any location, including the defendant's home, school or workplace.

The amnesty and round up apply to individuals who owe outstanding fines and fees to Justice of the Peace courts that are over 90 days past due. All offenders with outstanding traffic fines and fees are strongly encouraged to make arrangements to pay with the Justice of the Peace identified on the mail-out to avoid arrest and additional penalties.

Hidalgo County initiated "warrant postcard" reminders to those with outstanding fines and fees in February 2015 and has seen an average of a 10 percent return. So, for example, the \$8.8 million due from the targeted warrants during the round up, is expected to yield anywhere from \$500,000 to \$800,000.

Joining Rodriguez for the announcement during a news conference Friday, Feb. 19 at the Courthouse Annex, were Precinct 1 Commissioner A.C. Cuellar; Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra; Constable Martin Cantu, Precinct 2; Constable Lazaro "Larry" Gallardo, Precinct 3; Constable Atanacio "J.R." Gaitan, Precinct 4; Justice of the Peace Jaime "Jerry" Munoz, Precinct 2, Place 2; and Justice of the Peace Homer Jasso Sr., Precinct 4, Place 2.

###

Photos: Warrant Postcards ready to be shipped. Warrant Postcard jpg. District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. at the podium with (L-R) Precinct 1 Commissioner A.C. Cuellar, Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra, Precinct 3 Constable Lazaro "Larry" Gallardo, Precinct 2 Constable Martin Cantu, Precinct 4 Constable Atanacio "J.R." Gaitan, Precinct 2, Place 2 Justice of the Peace Jaime "Jerry" Munoz, and Precinct 4, Place 2 Justice of the Peace Homer Jasso Sr.

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.