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PRESS RELEASE

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**AMNESTY PERIOD ENDS TODAY WITH 445 OFFENDERS
PAYING MORE THAN \$116,000 IN HOT CHECKS
Arrest roundups may begin unannounced immediately after**

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal today announced that 445 individuals took advantage of the 2011 Hot Check Amnesty. Since January 28, 2011, when the amnesty was announced, County Attorney's Office received payment of 517 hot checks that represent more than \$116,500 for local merchants. During the amnesty period, persons who paid their outstanding balances avoided payment of various charges, such as court costs, attorney fees, and the cost of posting a bond after arrest.

Individuals who did not take advantage of the amnesty period will be targeted during upcoming county-wide warrant round-ups being coordinated by the County Attorney's Office with the assistance of the El Paso Sheriff's Office, and Constables from Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Individuals with outstanding hot-checks may attempt to avoid arrest in the upcoming roundups by paying as soon as possible. However, the amnesty period is over, and law enforcement officers can conduct arrests at any time without prior notice. Payments can be made at the following locations:

- **El Paso County Courthouse**
500 E. San Antonio, room 503
M- F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **El Paso County Ysleta Annex**
9521 Socorro Rd., Suite A-3
M - F 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Forms of payment accepted include credit cards, money orders, cashier checks, and cash; however, those paying with cash will have to bring the exact amount (cashiers cannot give change).

In addition, residents can make payments online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through “Hot Check E-pay,” by visiting the El Paso County Attorney’s Office web-page at www.epcounty.com/CA

The list with the names of individuals and outstanding amounts will remain posted at the *El Paso County Attorney’s Office web page* at www.epcounty.com/CA.

For more information regarding hot check payments and balances please contact the El Paso County Attorney's Office Hot Check Unit at 546-2051.

During last fiscal year (2009-2010) the Hot Check Unit collected more than \$930,000 in outstanding hot checks. So far, during the first 5 months of fiscal year 2010-2011 (October-February), the County Attorney’s Office has collected over \$392,000.

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