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**NO. 201204**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday March 27, 2012**

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**WEDNESDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PAY AND AVOID  
PUBLICATION OF NAME IN THE HOT CHECK WARRANT LIST**

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal today reminded hot check writers that tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 is the last day to pay to avoid the publication of their names and addresses in the hot check warrant list.

The list with the names of individuals with outstanding warrants will be published on Sunday April 1, 2012, by the Diario de El Paso newspaper, the El Paso County website ([www.epcounty.com](http://www.epcounty.com)), and on other local media outlets.

The publication of the warrants list kicks-off a two-week amnesty period that runs from Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday April 13, 2012.

Individuals who take advantage of the amnesty period and pay their outstanding balances before Friday, April 13, 2012, will avoid arrest during an upcoming county-wide warrant roundup that will be conducted by investigators of the El Paso County Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and Constables from Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Individuals who pay before the end of the amnesty period will not have to pay the extra fees related to incarceration such as court costs, attorney fees, and the cost of posting a bond.

Residents with outstanding hot check warrants can make their payments in person 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.

Additionally, during the amnesty period (April 1-13, 2012), residents of Northeast El Paso can make their payments in person at the following location:

- **El Paso County Attorney's Northeast Annex Office**  
4641 Cohen St., Suite D  
M- F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.  
(915) 858-0631

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 <https://www.epcounty.com/hotchecks/>. Some individuals may be eligible for a payment plan.

For more information regarding hot check payments and balances please contact the El Paso County Attorney's Office Hot Check Unit at 546-2051 or visit the El Paso County Attorney's Office web site at: [www.epcounty.com/CA](http://www.epcounty.com/CA).

Since March 14, 2012, when the roundups were announced, more than 60 individuals have taken advantage of the amnesty program, paying off 164 checks worth more than \$38,000.

There are currently more than 2,700 names in the County's hot checks warrants list who owe local merchants more than \$2.13 million dollars. Last fiscal year (2010-2011) the Hot Check Unit collected more than \$905,000 in outstanding hot checks.

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