



JOSÉ R. RODRÍGUEZ
EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO
ROOM 503, COUNTY COURTHOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

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For More Information Contact:

Elhiu Dominguez

Public Affairs Officer

Cell: (915) 892-5445

FAX: (915) 546-2133

Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S STATEMENT REGARDING FORMER
COUNTY COMMISSIONER BETTI FLORES' GUILTY PLEA**

County Attorney José R. Rodríguez issued today the following statement with regards to the ongoing FBI investigation and guilty plea by former County Commissioner Betti Flores:

"As legal advisor to both the County and the Hospital District, I am keenly aware of the negative effect and implications that former County Commissioner Betty Flores' recent admissions will have on county business and operations and Thomason Hospital.

First, I want to assure the public that the El Paso County Attorney's office is working hard to ensure that we are able to continue county operations under these challenging circumstances so that county and hospital services can continue to be delivered to the residents without interruption.

Second, I want to acknowledge that the public has a right to question the integrity of all County officials and more specifically to question the validity of the transactions that have been tainted by Commissioners Flores' criminal conduct.

My office will be working with appropriate county officials, to conduct a full review of the County transactions in question and will report on the impact and possible remedies that may be available to the County and affected vendors.

My office will also assist the Hospital District conduct its own internal review of any transactions tainted by Commissioners Flores' criminal conduct.

In the meantime, because of the on-going federal investigation and the fact that we don't know yet the full extent of the criminal activity that will be uncovered, I believe that we should

all exercise restraint in commenting, speculating, and reacting to every development stemming from the investigation.

Finally, I am disappointed that this criminal activity has taken place, but I am pleased that action is finally being taken to hold accountable those individuals that have abused their elected office and defrauded the people of this community. I am confident that the people of El Paso will soon be able to focus on building a stronger, dependable, and trustworthy county government, and a better community for us all.”

**- José R. Rodríguez
El Paso County Attorney**

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