



**JO ANNE BERNAL**  
EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY  
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO  
ROOM 503, COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For More Information Contact:**

Elhiu Dominguez

Public Affairs Officer

Phone: (915) 546-2016

Cell: (915) 472-1354

FAX: (915) 546-2133

[Elhiu.dominguez@epcounty.com](mailto:Elhiu.dominguez@epcounty.com)

**HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
HOT-CHECK AMNESTY PERIOD**

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal today announced that hundreds of individuals took advantage of the hot check amnesty period that began on May 14, 2010. 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, the Texas Department of Public Safety, local constables and the Fort Bliss Military police.

Since Friday May 14, 2010, when the amnesty program was announced, 451 El Paso residents took advantage of the program paying 562 outstanding hot-checks that amounted to more than \$74,300.

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 (5<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
- **El Paso County Ysleta Annex**  
9521 Socorro Rd., Suite A-3  
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m

Forms of payment accepted include most credit cards, money orders, cashiers checks, and cash; those paying cash will have to bring the exact amount (cashiers can't give change).

In addition, individuals 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](http://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.

The list with the names of individuals and outstanding amounts will remain posted at the *El Paso County's main web page* ([www.epcounty.com](http://www.epcounty.com)).

Additionally, the following media outlets have posted the Hot Check Warrant List on their web-sites to make it easier for the public to access the information:

- KVIA ABC-7
- KTSM NewsChannel 9
- KFOX-TV Channel 14
- KINT Univision 26
- Diario de El Paso
- Spotlight E.P. News

During last fiscal year (2008-2009) the Hot Check Unit collected 1.2 million dollars in outstanding hot checks.

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