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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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FREE HOT CHECK SEMINAR

Learn how to collect restitution and fees from hot check writers

El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez will be offering a free seminar to explain to local merchants and the general public how they can take advantage of the free hot check collection service offered by the Hot Check Unit.

Writing a hot check is a crime that hurts many El Paso businesses, the local economy and the community in general. The El Paso County Attorney's Office prosecutes these crimes and collects from the hot check writers restitution and a \$30 fee that is given to the merchant. And even though many big companies in El Paso take advantage of the program, thousands of small businesses do not, in part because they don't know the service is free.

The purpose of the seminar is to give details about the program and to answer any questions the public might have. At the event, the County Attorney's Office will announce a new policy in certified mail and notice of dishonor letters that will save all merchants time and money.

The Hot Check Unit will also introduce a new service called 'on-line inquiry' that will grant registered merchants access to their hot check accounts via internet, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, allowing them to learn instantly about the latest payments received and any other activities registered under their names.

WHAT: Hot Check Seminar

WHEN: Friday August 11th, 2006

TIME: 8:30 AM

WHERE: Commissioner's Court Auditorium

County Courthouse Room 303

500 E. San Antonio

For more information on the seminar, or how to get a free hot check packet by mail, please call the Hot Check Department, at 546-2051.

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For those interested members of the media, County Attorney José Rodríguez will be available for interviews immediately following his opening remarks. For further arrangements, please call Elhiu Dominguez at 546-2016.