



El Paso County Judge
Ricardo A. Samaniego

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release
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County Judge Samaniego's Statement on the Shutdown, the Wall and the Increased Release of Asylum Seekers to El Paso Streets

EL PASO, TX- County Judge Ricardo Samaniego issued the following statement on the shutdown, the wall and the increased release of asylum seekers to El Paso streets:

As we reach the end of week three of the government shutdown, and on the heels of Wednesday's oval office address, this administration's flagrant misrepresentation of our border community and the attempt to call an ineffective and astronomically expensive wall our path to "national security" is clearly inaccurate and is creating chaos where none exists.

El Paso has always been a generous and welcoming community. I applaud the efforts of El Pasoans, community groups, non-profits and volunteers that have provided shelter and assistance to asylum seekers. Ultimately, however, the responsibility to provide basic assistance should fall on the federal government and not the local community.

There is no room to tolerate the immoral and inhumane treatment of those who seek to escape violence and oppression in their home countries in search of a better life for themselves and their children. The practice of transporting and releasing into the El Paso streets hundreds of asylum seekers who have abided by the rule of law is abhorrent; but to do so in the coldest of months, on the coldest of days, and when all available shelters have reached their capacities, is not only unjust, it is cruel and I would implore the federal government to halt such activities in an effort give the community the opportunity to coordinate with those who are tasked with caring for these vulnerable families to ensure they are not literally left out in the cold.
