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PRESS RELEASE

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**Only 2 Days Left To Take Advantage of the Hot Check Amnesty
Period**

El Paso County residents with outstanding hot check warrants have only 2 days left to take advantage of the Amnesty period.

The amnesty period for hot check writers began on June 1 and it is scheduled to end on Saturday June 9 at 5 PM.

Since the beginning of the amnesty period, the El Paso County Attorney's Office has received \$79,957 in payments from hot check writers, and we expect an even greater turnout during the last 2 days of the program.

Individuals with outstanding hot check warrants who pay during the amnesty period avoid arrest and may avoid prosecution, and they will save hundreds of dollars in fees related to incarceration, such as court fees, attorney fees, and payment of bonds. However, they still have to pay a merchant fee and a collection fee.

Individuals who do not pay their outstanding dues during the amnesty period will be targeted for arrest during an upcoming citywide round up. Officers with the El Paso Police Department will conduct the operation without prior notice anytime after the end of the amnesty period. The officers will go out at day or night arresting hot-check writers at their homes or places of employment.

To facilitate the payment of outstanding hot checks, **the County Attorney's Office will be receiving payments at the following Police Regional Command Centers** Friday from 8:00

AM until 6:30 PM, and on Saturday June 9, the last day of the amnesty period, from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

- Westside Regional Command 4801 Osborne Dr.
- Pebble Hills Regional Command 10780 Pebble Hills
- Northeast Regional Command 9600 Dyer St.
- Mission Valley Regional Command 9011 Escobar Dr.

Also on Saturday the County Attorney's Office will also be accepting payments at the Municipal Court building, 810 E. Overland, in downtown El Paso from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Residents with outstanding hot checks warrants can also make their payments at the El Paso County Attorney's Office, 5th floor of the County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Payments can be made by money order, cashiers check, exact change (cash), Visa and Master Card upon approval. No other form of payment will be accepted.

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 complete and updated list of individuals with theft by check outstanding warrants will remain posted in the El Paso County web site at: www.epcounty.com/CA.

Since the beginning of the program on Tuesday May 1, the El Paso County Attorney's Office has received more than \$177,000 in payments from hot check writers. Since the beginning of the amnesty period on June 1, our office has received more than \$47,000 in payments.

There are currently more than 5,800 names in the County's hot checks warrants list, who owe local merchants more than 4.5 million dollars.

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