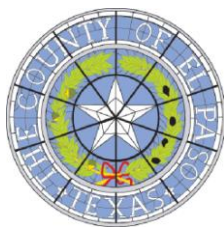


JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Veronica Escobar
El Paso County Judge



Victor A. Flores, RTC
El Paso Tax Assessor-Collector

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scofflaw Verification Program nets over \$660,000 in 14 weeks

El Paso, TX: El Paso County Tax-Assessor Collector Victor A. Flores, El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar and Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty announced today that the newly implemented Scofflaw Verification Program has generated over \$660,000 in just 14 weeks.

The County of El Paso instituted the Scofflaw Verification Program on November 29, 2010 in order to collect outstanding fines and fees. This program prevents individuals with outstanding violations to renew their vehicle registration until the violation is paid. After 90 days of a violation, a list of names is submitted to the Tax Assessor-Collector's Office/Scofflaw Program which places a block for renewals of vehicle registration until case is settled with the court and/or paid in full.

"The Scofflaw Program has affected the workflow of our operations by slowing down the process and is further compounded by personnel cutbacks, however it has been very fruitful and we are working on streamlining the process by integrating the program into the state computers thus eliminating the need for two lines," stated Victor Flores.

Escobar stated, *"The Commissioners Court is very pleased with the results we are seeing through the implementation of the Scofflaw program. During a time when El Paso County is seeing cuts in our State funding and decreased revenues locally, programs like the Scofflaw Verification System are critical as they ease the burden on the local property taxpayer. The Commissioners Court will continue to look for efficiencies and ways to maximize our services in the most fiscally responsible manner."*

Commissioner Haggerty, who is also a member of the Scofflaw committee, stated *"I am very proud of the work done by the committee and the way the committee resolved so many difficult issues. This was a team effort involving the Tax-Assessor Collector, Victor A. Flores and departments such as Domestic Relations, Information Technology and the County Auditors Office. Kudos to everyone involved."*

Through the Scofflaw Program, approximately **12,590** outstanding cases have been identified at a value of **\$3 million**.

The County is also working on an inter-local agreement with the City of El Paso to participate in the Scofflaw Program. Prior to renewing the vehicle registration individuals may check to see if they owe any fines and fees by visiting www.epcounty.com/check.

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