



JOSÉ R. RODRÍGUEZ
EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO
ROOM 503, COUNTY COURTHOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday November 29, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: Elhiu Dominguez
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (915) 546-2016
FAX: (915) 546-2133
Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com

**COUNTY ATTORNEY TO MEET WITH RESIDENTS OF
COLONIAS CONCERNED ABOUT SHERIFF'S TRAFFIC
CHECKPOINTS**

On Sunday December 3, 2006, El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez will meet with dozens of residents of San Elizario and Clint who have expressed concerns about the traffic checkpoints reinstated by the El Paso Sheriff Department.

The County Attorney was invited by members of the Border Network For Human Rights to talk to the residents about issues related to the enforcement of civil immigration law by local law enforcement agencies.

During the last couple of weeks, colonias residents have expressed concerns about the possibility that traffic checkpoints implemented by the El Paso Sheriff Department could be used to detain illegal immigrants.

On October 10, 2006, El Paso Sheriff Leo Samaniego announced that he was reinstating the Department's vehicle checkpoints, and even though he clearly stated that the only purpose was to enforce traffic laws of the State of Texas, some residents still fear that officers will target illegal immigrants.

County Attorney José R. Rodríguez explained that the meeting will help to dispel resident's fears and to give them more information about what role the local law enforcement officers play with regards to enforcing the federal immigration laws.

“We need county residents to trust local law enforcement officers enough to call them whenever they need help or a crime has been committed. Public safety cannot be achieved if the residents, regardless of their immigration status, fear the authorities,” Rodríguez explained.

The meeting will take place on December 3, 2006 at 10 a.m. at the San Elizario Church, 1556 San Elizario Rd., in San Elizario.

WHO: County Attorney José R. Rodríguez

WHAT: Meeting with San Elizario Residents

WHEN: Sunday December 3, 2006 at 10:00 AM

WHERE: San Elizario Church

1556 San Elizario Rd. (San Elizario, TX)