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**Statement Issued by County Attorney José R. Rodríguez Regarding  
the Ongoing FBI Criminal Investigation**

During the past few days, elected officials, the media and concerned El Paso citizens have been demanding some kind of response from county authorities to the very serious allegations of illegal activities uncovered by the ongoing FBI investigation of several county officials and others.

First, I want to assure El Paso residents that my office takes the various allegations very seriously, especially because they could potentially undermine citizens' confidence in their county government.

Of particular concern to my office is the allegation that the court selection process in El Paso County has been manipulated to influence the outcome of criminal and civil proceedings. The court system is the cornerstone of justice in our democracy, and we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that neither money nor other corrupting influences threaten its fairness.

I have been in contact with federal officials to discuss the ramifications of proceeding with county initiated investigations regarding alleged improprieties. The Federal authorities have expressed concern regarding any such investigations being conducted at this time and want to further discuss the best manner in which any investigations should proceed. Rest assured that all appropriate Federal, State, and local investigations will be conducted as warranted.

My office will continue monitoring very closely the unfolding of the federal criminal investigation to detect any flaws in county processes, procedures and policies. We will be reviewing the need for any changes to county bidding procedures, the Code of Ethics, court case assignments, and other matters as necessary.

I ask everyone to be patient. I am confident our system of justice will take care of those who have acted unlawfully and betrayed the public trust. We will not rest until we have done everything we can to restore the public's trust and confidence in their county government.  
Thank you.

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