



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY REPORTS ON SUCCESS OF HOT CHECK ROUND-UP**

The Office of District Attorney Isidro Alaniz held a Hot Check Amnesty Program allowing anyone with an amount pending in the DA's Hot Check Unit to pay off their hot checks without being arrested.

**Amnesty began Saturday, May 2, 2009 and ran through Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

During the Amnesty period:

- \$14,423.95 was collected in outstanding hot checks
- 35 people entered into payment plans valued at \$45,933.11\*

**The Round-up began Monday, May 18th and ran through Friday, May 22nd.**

The District Attorney's Office prepared fifty arrest warrants in anticipation of the Round-Up.

During the Round-Up:

- 25 people were arrested
- \$22,218.26 was collected in outstanding hot checks
- 25 people entered into payment plans valued at \$28,353.00\*

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, the District Attorney's Office will prepare eighty-one checks to be distributed to merchants throughout Webb County.

District Attorney Isidro Alaniz is always concerned about the negative impact bad checks have upon local business. “Hot checks impair our local economy when merchants must increase consumer costs in order to offset their losses.” For this reason, the District Attorney’s Hot Checks Unit has sought to obtain restitution for the victims of bad checks and to educate merchants to protect themselves against this white-collar crime.

*\*actual monies collected are accounted separate and apart from payment plans*

**For more information, contact the District Attorney’s Hot Checks Unit at 523-4931 or 523-4919**