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## Department of Budget & Management

2818 S. Bus. Hwy. 281 • Edinburg, Texas 78539 • Phone: (956) 292-7025 • Fax: (956) 292-7034 • [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/budget](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/budget)

09/13/11

### PROJECT STATUS REPORT

**PROJECT NAME:** Operation Clean Slate  
**CC APPROVAL DATE:** August 09<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**COMMENCEMENT:** September 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation Clean Slate is a 6 month multi-phased project aimed at assisting JP's in their collection of outstanding fees and fines owed to Hidalgo County.

#### PHASE 1

September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 thru November 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

The implementation of an online searchable database that will allow the public to view and pay outstanding JP citations owed to Hidalgo County.

- EZ Justice online portal will go live on Thursday.
- The public will be allowed to enter their DOB and a DL#, Citation#, or Last Name.
- All JP outstanding fees and fines owed Jan 2000 thru April 2011 will be displayed.
- The public will have an opportunity to pay online.
- Public Service Announcements are schedule to begin broadcasting on Thursday.
- The searchable database contains approximately 35M in owed monies.
- On Average County keep 60% State keeps 40%.
- Anticipate 10% collections or 2M.

#### PHASE 2

November 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 thru March 30<sup>th</sup> 2012

Will establish restrictions on the renewal of driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations for persons who owe outstanding fees and fines until paid in full.

#### PHASE 3

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

The County will seek to utilize a 3<sup>rd</sup> party collections contractor with an outside law firm to collect the remaining delinquent fines and fees owed.

# HIDALGO COUNTY OPERATION CLEAN SLATE

## Phase 1 – Online searchable database



Search Tickets	
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/> **Required
Option 1	
Citation Number	<input type="text"/>
Option 2	
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Drivers License	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	
<p><b>PAYMENT CONSTITUTES A PLEA OF NOLO CONTENDERE ("NO CONTEST"). Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 27.14 ( c) states: "In a misdemeanor case for which the maximum possible punishment is by fine only, payment of a fine or an amount accepted by the court constitutes a finding of guilty in open court as though a plea of nolo contendere had been entered by the defendant and constitutes a waiver of a jury trial in writing."</b></p>	

## Target Fees and Fines Hidalgo County



### Operation Clean Slate "PAST"

Phase I: 60 Day Period  
Target Date: September 15, 2011

- Online Database
- Online Payment System
- Public Awareness Media Campaign

Phase II: After Phase I Period  
Target Date: November 15, 2011

- Omnibase DL Hold
- Scofflaw Vehicle Sticker Hold

Phase III: After 6 month Phase II Period  
Target Date: March 15, 2012

- 3rd Party Collections Attorney

***"Operation Clean Slate does not aim to arrest or detain anyone. They pay or visit the issuing JP voluntarily."***

### Operation Forefront "PRESENT & FUTURE"

Phase I (Currently in Progress)

- Assess Inventory for JP and Constables (equipment, staff, skip tracing databases, etc)

Phase II

Target Date: October 1, 2011

- Utilize JP Technology Fund to provide resources

Phase III

Target Date: January 1, 2012

- Training for JP staff; implementation of uniform policy for all JP locations.

Phase IV: TBD (Possibly February 1, 2012)

- Possible Performance Based Measures
- Consideration for Central Clearinghouse for Warrants