

December 14, 2009

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The Honorable Jaime Esparza
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El Paso County Sheriff's Department
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The Honorable Jo Anne Bernal
County Attorney
El Paso County Attorney's Office
500 E San Antonio St, Rm 503
El Paso, Texas 79901-2420

RE: Camino Real Region International Cartel Team

Dear Community Leaders:

Per our 'conversation' at the recent Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, we want to follow up on the great work in HB 2086 from last session with fresh, updated recommendations for action in the 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature. Briefly, we want to know if law enforcement (local, state) needs more tools, better tools or more resources as international drug cartels expand into Texas, especially along key trade corridors like I--10.

In this regard, we ask that you come to our El Paso Senate office at 10 a.m. Friday, January 29, 2009 to join us to craft these solutions under the "*Combating Cartels in the Camino Real Workgroup.*" Our goal is to deliver a Workgroup Report by August 1st for inclusion in Texas Senate and House Interim Reports.

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Please contact Claudia Ordaz at 544-1990 for additional information. Based on your recommendations, we will submit bill drafts, make appropriations recommendations, as well as drafting and delivering key appropriations requests and bills.

Enclosed you will find a Congressional Research Service Report on Mexico's Drug Cartels, as well as the El Paso Sex Offenders Task Report from 2002, which will serve as our model. We look forward to working with you and your team on this very important issue.

Very truly yours,

Eliot Shapleigh

ES/co

Encl: El Paso Sex Offenders Task Report, 2002
Congressional Research Service Report on Mexico's Drug Cartels, 2008

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