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**NEWS
RELEASE**

El Paso, Texas

EPPD and TABC Collaborate to Conduct Compliance Inspections

Date: 10/30/2020

In a joint effort to enhance compliance missions relating to COVID-19 emergency directives, the El Paso Police Department (EPPD) and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) will conduct compliance inspections collectively of local establishments operating as restaurants beginning today, Friday, Oct. 30.

The current health directive requires establishments operating as restaurants to close their doors by 9 p.m. and the premises vacated no later than 10 p.m.

Based on the violation, enforcement measures against the establishment or person committing the violation can be taken by one or both agencies.

These compliance inspections by officers from both agencies are part of an ongoing collaborative effort between state and local law enforcement.

Since the inception of the COVID mitigation teams have responded to 2,798 calls resulting in 3,355 contacts, 456 warnings, 1 summons to appear, and 13 citations.

El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen points out "We will work in partnership with TABC to protect the citizens of El Paso as directed by the mayor. This enforcement effort will seek compliance by the community to help reduce the spread of the virus while safeguarding individual civil liberties."

Since Monday, the TABC has conducted 439 inspections of premises licensed for on-premise consumption of alcohol. These inspections represent more than 50 percent of the premises that have a permit for on-premise consumption of alcohol in El Paso County. As a result of these inspections nine (9) administrative written warnings have been issued and two (2) administrative cases have been filed. The TABC has issued a 30-day suspension for each of the two cases.

"TABC is grateful for the hundreds of El Paso business owners and employees who have taken the necessary steps to protect the health of customers and their families," TABC Executive Director Bentley Nettles said. "We're proud to work alongside the El Paso Police Department to help enforce the Governor's executive orders while keeping residents safe."



Media Contact: Sgt. Enrique Carrillo
Public Affairs/ Public Information Officer
(915) 212.4035