



Texas Department of Public Safety

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DPS unveils new Regional Office, presents awards to outstanding employees and announces personnel changes

During today's Public Safety Commission meeting, the Department of Public Safety held a grand opening ceremony for the new Regional office in Weslaco, Texas. Senator Eddie Lucio Jr., Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Representative Veronica Gonzales, Representative Eddie Lucio III, and Representative Armando "Mando" Martinez attended and provided remarks.

"In 2007, I was proud to have the support of the Valley delegation in securing appropriations for a new regional headquarters; I am pleased to see the project has come to fruition," Senator Lucio said. "Located in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley, the new office represents a noble investment in the life and liberty of the entire region."

The Texas Legislature authorized funding for the new office during the 80th Legislative Session. DPS Director Steven C. McCraw expressed his thanks to those in attendance: "Because of the tireless efforts of Legislators in the border region throughout the years, the Department of Public Safety is well equipped to protect and serve all Texans."

The Public Safety Commission presented retired Sergeant Brian Hawthorne of Chambers County with a Director's Citation due to his diligent and tireless efforts in representing the Department during the 82nd Legislative Session. "Sgt. Hawthorne's efforts were instrumental in ensuring the continued success of the Department of Public Safety," said Chairman Allan Polunsky.

The Public Safety Commission also recognized Linda Doherty, who served as Commission Liaison for the past two years, with an award to celebrate her retirement.

The Public Safety Commission also authorized changes to the organizational chart including the creation of a Division of Homeland Security, led by an Assistant Director position, and the creation of a Policy, Projects and Portfolio Management office, led by Amanda Arriaga. Wayne Mueller was confirmed as the Assistant Director of the Administration Division and Joe Peters was named as a Special Assistant to the Director.

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