



**Laura Hinojosa**  
Hidalgo County  
District Clerk

## PRESS ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release**

Friday, October 2, 2009

Contact: Ricardo Contreras  
(956) 318-2200 (day)  
(956) 343-2633 (evening)

### **HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK, MERCEDES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PROGRESO INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE & FIRST NATIONAL BANK PARTNER TO HOST PASSPORT FAIR**

**MERCEDES, TEXAS** – The Hidalgo County District Clerk Office has partnered with THE Mercedes Chamber of Commerce, Progreso International Bridge and First National Bank to host a passport fair on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the First National Bank Building located at 301 S. Texas St, in Mercedes. The fair will be conducted from 9am to 1pm.

On **June 1, 2009**, the U.S. government implemented the full requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

The public is encouraged to process their passport application on this day. Appointments can be made by calling 956.318.2200, ext. 6270. Walk-ins are welcome. The public should present the following to assist in the facilitation of the application process:

- Passport Application (available at Mercedes EDC, First National Bank or at [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us) / [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov))
- Proof of US Citizenship (birth certificate, long form)
- Proof of identity (valid driver's license)
- Two recent color passport photographs (available on site for \$15)
- Fees in check or money order (visit [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us) or [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for current fees)

**WHO: Hidalgo County District Clerk, Mercedes Chamber of Commerce,  
Progreso International Bridge & First National Bank**

**WHAT: Mid-Valley Passport Fair**

**WHEN: Friday, October 9, 2009  
9am – 1pm**

**WHERE: First National Bank  
301 S. Texas St.  
Mercedes, Texas**

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