



# HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## SHERIFF J. E. "EDDIE" GUERRA

### MEDIA RELEASE

**Date:** Wednesday August 14, 2019

**To:** All Media Sources (Open Release)

**Subject: Hidalgo County Sheriff Guerra Appointed to Governor's Domestic Terrorism Task Force**

**Details:** Hidalgo County Sheriff Eddie Guerra today announced that Texas Governor Gregg Abbott has appointed him as a member of the newly-formed Domestic Terrorism Task Force. Guerra is one of a handful of officials that will be working to develop effective strategies to combat domestic terrorism and extremism in Texas. Earlier today, Abbott announced the creation of the task force in the wake of the El Paso shooting.

According to the Governor's Office, the specific objectives of the task force will include:

- Analyzing current and emerging threats in Texas, and developing strategies that government entities can take to prevent and respond to such threats.
- Studying ways to increase interagency cooperation and collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies.
- Developing model tools, policies, and protocols to assist in fighting domestic terrorism.
- Providing advice and recommendations regarding state homeland security strategic planning, and relevant legislative recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

Members of the task force include Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton, Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen, Colonel Steve McCraw of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Chief W. Nim Kidd of the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and representatives from federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, among others. Guerra is the only Sheriff in Texas to be named to the task force.

"I am honored to be a part of such an esteemed group of individuals with the common goal of working together to prevent and combat domestic terrorism," said Guerra. "Extremism and hate crimes have no place in Texas, and together, we will work to keep this great state, and our respective communities, safe," he added.

"Serving in this capacity will not only help to provide insight to the task force by sharing our expertise and experience as a border community, but also help to bring back and implement valuable best practices, shared knowledge, and effective models that will help us keep Hidalgo County safe from these types of threats," Guerra continued.

The first meeting of the task force is scheduled to be held later this month.