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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

08/30/2023

# Sexual Harassment Leads to Official Oppression Charges

**Date:** January 2018 to May 2023

**Location:** 911 N. Raynor (El Paso Police Department Headquarters)

**Offender 1:** John Surface (Lieutenant), 43-years-old  
El Paso Police Department (19-year veteran)

**Offense 1:** Official Oppression **Bond:** \$15,000 **Judge:** Nunez

**Offense 2:** Official Oppression **Bond:** \$15,000 **Judge:** Nunez

**Offender 2:** Adan Chavez (Sergeant), 44-years-old  
El Paso Police Department (21-year veteran)

**Offense:** Official Oppression **Bond:** \$7,500 **Judge:** Nunez

**Victim 1:** Female Officer of the El Paso Police Department

**Victim 2:** Female Officer of the El Paso Police Department

**El Paso, Texas** – August 30, 2023 – The El Paso Police Department is committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and accountability within its ranks. This evening, we announce the arrest of two supervisors of the El Paso Police Department, Lieutenant John Surface and Sergeant Adan Chavez, in connection with allegations of Official Oppression. The allegations were brought forward by two female police officers, prompting an investigation by our Special Investigation Unit. The investigation revealed disturbing incidents involving explicit requests and coercive behavior by Surface and Chavez. These allegations are taken with the utmost seriousness, as the well-being and trust of our officers and the community are of paramount importance. Such behavior not only contradicts the values of our department but also undermines the collaborative and respectful environment we strive to foster. Both supervisors have been relieved of duty



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Among All Members of the Community

**Media contact:** Judy Oviedo  
Detective  
(915) 212-0477



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and the El Paso Police Department reaffirms its unwavering commitment to addressing matters of misconduct within our organization. We are dedicated to ensuring a safe and respectful working environment for all officers, where professionalism and integrity are upheld at all times.

The department will proceed with the appropriate legal actions to hold those involved accountable for their actions. We believe that accountability is a fundamental aspect of maintaining public trust and ensuring the highest level of service to our community. The El Paso Police Department remains steadfast in its mission to protect and serve the citizens of El Paso. We stand united against any behavior that tarnishes the reputation of law enforcement and are resolute in our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

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