



VOL 7 - ISSUE 6



## MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

I hope you're having a great summer so far and that you're finding a way to beat the heat! I know a group of kids who've been doing just that this week. Today, as we release this newsletter, it's also graduation day for our latest band of Junior Deputy campers.

Our staff looks forward to this every year and when you check out the pictures and video, I'm sure you'll see why. Units across TCSO open their doors and give campers direct access not only to learn about the things we do here, but also to explore those duties hands-on. Many, if not most adults don't even know all the jobs their sheriff's office does day-to-day, but these kiddos do!

I love Junior Deputy Camp for the obvious reasons; it's fun, the kids bring vibrance and vitality to our day and they encourage us to laugh and see life through their eyes. The most meaningful elements of camp go deeper. This week is an opportunity for us to mentor the next generation. Through one-on-one interactions, we challenge and inspire these young minds. Our deputies, corrections officers and civilian staff encourage them and set the example of kindness and public service.

In this issue, you can read more about the camp and all the units the kids were allowed to tour, as well as members of the judicial system they got to meet. As we say around here, this career is more than something to do, it's something to be. I think we have some kids dreaming big after this week.



## LOUIE WHITE COMMUNITY FORUM



Sheriff Hernandez was honored to be invited by Commissioner Jeffrey Travillion to join the annual Louie White Community Forum on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's topic was the future of community policing, and the event allowed area law enforcement to discuss their efforts, as well as answer questions from the audience. It was a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to the legacy of former Austin Police Department Captain Louie W. White, who was a pioneer in community policing with decades of service to others.

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS



TCSO takes great pride in celebrating and honoring the Juneteenth holiday. Earlier this month, our [Public Safety Cadets 1099](#) participated in the Travis County Juneteenth Celebration by selling catfish plates as a fundraiser. We sold out early...Thanks to everyone for your support!

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we joined the annual Historical Juneteenth Parade in East Austin. It was a great turn-out, even with the Texas heat, and we really enjoyed visiting and celebrating with our great community!



## PRIDE MONTH



On June 13<sup>th</sup>, TCSO joined Travis County leaders for their third-annual Progress Pride Flag-Raising ceremony in celebration of Pride month. Members of the Commissioners Court, other elected officials and local LGBTQIA+ leaders shared messages and the event also offered attendees music from DJ KICKIT, shopping with local LGBTQIA+ vendors, and free treats from Lick Honest Ice Creams and Good Pop.

We believe diversity and inclusiveness make Travis County stronger. We hope that by raising this flag, members of the LGBTQIA+ community will see a beacon of hope, that they are welcome, and that they belong. Throughout the month, you can see the Progress Flag flying high at the Travis County Administration Building in Downtown Austin.



Operating a law enforcement agency and a jail (with two separate facilities) requires compliance with state and federal regulations. On a daily basis, we process sensitive information that includes criminal history, health and identity records, just to name a few. This month, TCSO was audited by several state and federal entities, including the FBI.

In our Professional Services Division, we underwent seven audits for compliance with Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), Department of Public Safety (DPS) Records, Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC), National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Secure Site Access and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). After filling out thousands of pages of documents, logs, and procedure and policy submissions and reviews, we were deemed to be in full compliance.

We were also audited for compliance with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. PREA was passed in 2003 to eliminate sexual assault in prisons and jails. TCSO hit the mark in all standards of the audit, exceeding expectations in six categories.

We strive to hold ourselves to a higher standard for law enforcement and we're proud of our employees for keeping us true to our word for another round of audits.

## COBRA GRADUATION #106



The TCSO Training Academy offers a Corrections Officers Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) for all new-hire Corrections Officers. Corrections Officers attend the COBRA course while on duty within their first year of employment; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provides a one-year, temporary Corrections Officer license. COBRA is 360 hours of specialized instruction that consists of the following:

- PHASE 1: Course satisfies TCOLE requirements for the Basic County Corrections course; topics include booking, identification, inmate rights, headcounts, emergency procedures, searches, classifications, health services, etc.
- PHASE 2: Course highlights those areas that are fundamental to normal and emergency operations of the Travis County Correctional system; topics include defensive tactics, firearms training, CPR, smoke-house safety, departmental policies, interpersonal communication, wellness, etc.

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class #106 who graduated on June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alma Aguilar, Emily Andersen, Ronald Brinkley, Briana Durda, Eric Esquivel, Bailee Grabowski, Samuel Ochoa, Haylee Page, Jose Rodriguez Jaramillo, Timothy Terbay & Evan Wallace.

## FIRST RESPONDERS BBQ



On June 10<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Hernandez and Deputy Chief Anthony Johnson, along with members of TCSO West Patrol, were delighted to attend Bear Creek Crossing's First Responders Appreciation BBQ. The Manchaca-area neighborhood invited many first responders out for their lunchtime event at the community's park. We really want to express our gratitude for being included and we definitely felt the love as we enjoyed great food and greater conversation with those who we are proud to serve. Thank you!

## TCSO CHAPLAIN ACHIEVEMENT



TCSO Chaplain Lamar Claypool has earned the Veteran Administration Board Certification, demonstrating the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver evidence-based spiritual care to staff and individuals in custody. This achievement marks the successful completion of rigorous coursework in theory and practice, professional conduct, and organizational leadership, as well as six peer interviews. The skills Chaplain Claypool has refined are a tremendous help to those he serves.

## JUNIOR DEPUTY SUMMER CAMP



During the last week of June, we hosted our [Junior Deputy Summer Camp](#) for 9-12 year old youth. During the week-long camp, campers experienced demonstrations and deputations by 12 specialized units within the agency to include Patrol, SWAT, K-9, Training Academy, Crime Scene, Highway Enforcement, Corrections Tactical, Dive Team, Lake Patrol, Motors, Estry, Criminal Investigations Division and Estry. Additionally, our campers also visited Judge [Brandy Mueller at the 403<sup>rd</sup> Criminal District Court](#), [University of Texas Police Department](#) (with an amazing tour of the UT football athletic facilities and stadium), [Spore Time Texas](#) and [Dart'Em Up](#).

We had a great bunch of smart and engaging kiddos. As always, we probably had more fun than them...It was a jam-packed week, but well worth it! We look forward to next year's camp...Follow us on social media to be the first to hear when it opens next year.

