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Travis County Sheriff's Office

NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism



In the Community



COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE

On April 16, TCSO had the honor of hosting a community breakfast for residents at [Community First! Village \(CFV\)](#). The morning was filled with yummy tacos, meaningful conversation and an opportunity to strengthen connections with our neighbors. CFV is a master-planned community in Austin that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive environment for individuals transitioning out of chronic homelessness. Events like these reflect our ongoing commitment to building trust, fostering relationships and supporting the community we proudly serve.



HOPE FOR HEROES BENEFIT

Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO staff attended [Samaritan Center's](#) 9th Annual Hope for Heroes Benefit on April 25. The event honored veterans and first responders while raising support for Hope for Heroes, Samaritan Center's signature program serving veteran, military and first responder families through free counseling and peer support. The evening highlighted the importance of investing in mental health and the well-being of those who serve and protect our community and country.



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

On April 22, TCSO proudly participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, a statewide fundraiser and public awareness event benefiting the [Special Olympics of Texas](#). Each year, law enforcement officers from across Texas carry the Flame of Hope to the Texas State Capitol, marking the official kickoff of the Summer Games. The event included remarks from community leaders, including Sheriff Hernandez and Kirk Watson.



PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL RIDE

On April 26, cyclists and crew members with the [Texas Peace Officers Memorial Ride](#) once again enjoyed a pit stop at TCSO's Training Academy on their way to the Texas State Capitol. This annual event starts in San Antonio, and participants cycle to Austin in memory of fallen peace officers. There's always room for more and the group encourages anyone who is interested to join them next year.

Public Safety Spotlight



CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

On April 14, the Travis County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation officially declaring April 14 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. TCSO's Child Abuse Unit was in attendance, along with Sheriff Hernandez, District Attorney Jose Garza, the [Center for Child Protection](#) and [Partnerships for Children](#). Nationwide, the theme for this year's awareness month is "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention," recognizing that when families have proper support, they can work toward a brighter future for their children. The commissioners' proclamation is another step toward supporting Travis County families, signaling that a community can work as one to stop child abuse before it can ever happen.



From the Sheriff

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was enacted by Congress in 2003, and its purpose is to prevent sexual assault in prisons, jails and juvenile facilities. The act includes 43 operational standards and seven auditing requirements.

It may surprise you to know that only nine county jails in Texas have PREA certification. TCSO has held PREA certification for many years. It is our mission to operate at the highest level of state and federal standards.

The PREA Act requires an audit every three years and, this month, an audit was conducted at our facilities. It's an arduous process that includes an in-person site review of each facility, functionality tests of key systems and operations, and interviews with a representative sample of inmates, staff, contractors and volunteers.

I'm so proud to tell you that not only did TCSO pass the audit, but the auditor raved about the people she met throughout the days she was on our campuses. She was very impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of each person she interviewed.

This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of so many people. PREA standards are upheld by corrections officers, medical personnel, counselors, security coordinators, mental health professionals, facility maintenance teams and detectives, just to name a few.

Our dedication to upholding high standards and treating every person in our care and custody with dignity is a top priority. Garnering praise from an auditor who travels the nation to evaluate corrections facilities is evidence that those efforts are making a positive impact and setting our reputation. I couldn't be more thankful for the work the men and women of your Travis County Sheriff's Office do each and every day.

Proud Highlights



BPOC 29 GRADUATION

Class #29 proudly graduated from the Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) on April 9. This intensive nine-month program delivers more than 900 hours of comprehensive training across all aspects of law enforcement. While the state mandates nearly 700 hours of instruction, TCSO goes above and beyond by providing an additional 300 hours of advanced training, including dynamic, reality-based and stress-induced scenarios designed to prepare recruits for real-world challenges.

Congratulations to the following TCSO employees on this outstanding achievement: Jake Arterbury, Hailey Atwood, James Conant III, Ian Crowe, Caleb Harris, Jerica Heyd, Tanner Howe, Benjamin Hurley, Hunter Kegher, Frantz Louis, Kaitlyn Lutz, Luis Mansilla, Mark Marquez, Ashley Olson, Gabriel Reyna, Rubelmar Reynoso-Aviles, Remi Richard, Giovanni Rodriguez, Nollen Rogers and Joel Salinas.



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

TCSO's annual Awards Ceremony took place on April 16. The evening was a special time to get together as a family and celebrate years of service along with extraordinary accomplishments. The stories that were shared brought laughter and tears, and, above all, great honor to the recipients and genuine appreciation from all the friends and family who attended.



REENTRY VISION SUMMIT

At the [Reentry Vision Summit](#), Sheriff Hernandez welcomed attendees and highlighted TCSO's ongoing investment in jail programs, partnerships and reentry efforts that support safer communities. In collaboration with the [On-Point Consortium](#) and [Austin Community College](#), the summit brought together partners to share insights and strengthen coordinated support for successful reentry. TCSO remains committed to reducing barriers, promoting dignity and enhancing public safety.