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26

Travis County Sheriff's Office

NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism



Public Safety Spotlight



MCSA POLICY CONFERENCE

Sheriff Hernandez joined sheriffs from across the nation at the [Major County Sheriffs of America \(MCSA\)](#) policy conference in Washington, D.C. MCSA is comprised of sheriffs' offices serving counties larger than 400,000 in population, making the gathering a strong forum to share best practices and strengthen national partnerships. The conference offered leadership briefings and roundtable discussions focused on strategies agencies can bring home to their communities. Topics included disaster readiness, recruitment and retention, jail health and wellness, violent crime reduction, technology and community partnerships that keep neighborhoods safe.



MENTAL HEALTH + REENTRY SUPPORT

Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO's Behavioral Health & Programs Director Danny Smith joined [KAZI Austin Community Radio](#) for an interview highlighting the agency's focus on mental health, reentry and in-jail programming. They discussed how early support and evidence-informed services can help people stabilize, build skills and connect to resources that support success after release. The interview also highlighted the importance of meeting people where they are and linking them to the right services at the right time. TCSO will continue investing in programs that support long-term stability, reduce barriers to reentry and improve outcomes for the community.



WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Women in Criminal Justice Conference is hosted by the [Correctional Management Institute of Texas](#) and provides an opportunity for women to connect and network with others from across the country. Representatives from corrections, law enforcement and probation shared their stories and offered solutions that have worked for them.

Six TCSO corrections officers attended and enjoyed the opportunity to hear from renowned leaders in their field, including retired District Attorney Mark Yarborough who presented "Suffer from Burnout," Texas Ranger Major Wende Wakeman who presented "Credibility Counts," and Attorney Jo Ann Linzer who presented "The Power Within: Women Leading Change in Criminal Justice."



VICTIM SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

On February 19, TCSO's Victim Services Unit (VSU) hosted its annual Victim Services Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is an opportunity to formally recognize the dedication, professionalism and compassion demonstrated by volunteers throughout the year. The evening highlights the meaningful impact volunteers have on individuals and the broader community, while also reinforcing VSU's commitment to service and collaboration.

Congratulations to the following TCSO staff and volunteers who went above and beyond:

- Volunteer of the Year | Sue Dawson
- Rookie of the Year | Aneka Lilya
- Most Shifts Taken | Katelyn Broussard
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Detective Paul Salo
- Gold Star (100+ shifts): Sue Dawson | Kathy Broussard | Amber Hardaway
- Silver Star (60+ Shifts): Kathi Loera | Mark Doherty

In the Community



VALENTINE'S DAY OF SERVICE

In celebration of the holiday, TCSO spent time spreading a little extra love to senior residents in our community. Deputies delivered cards and teddy bears, sharing smiles and conversation. It's important to remind our seniors they are valued, remembered and appreciated.



From the Sheriff

Last week, TCSO's Behavioral Health & Programs Director Danny Smith and I had the opportunity to join Latreese Cook, Founder and Executive Director of the [Minorities for Equality in Economy \(MELE\) Center](#), on her KAZI radio talk show, Iron Sharpens Iron, about reentry.

The three of us have known each other for many years, but it had been quite some time since we had all been in a room together. During the hour-long conversation, Danny and Latreese started by reminiscing about some of the first reentry programs TCSO offered to people in custody. Danny invited her to come back and visit the jail to see how those humble beginnings have grown into many flourishing classes and curriculums.

TCSO is doing great work to set people in our care and custody on a path forward; a path that takes them onto decisions and opportunities that won't lead them back to criminal activity or back to the Travis County Jail.

Jail programs are a valuable investment not only to enrich the lives of people who have made mistakes but also for the community they will reenter. We want to do everything we can to keep residents safe. These programs run thanks to the efforts of dedicated staff and a team of incredible volunteers. Hundreds of people with huge hearts and deep dedication volunteer their time to teach and mentor. Words fall short of the gratitude I have for all they do.

Travis County has so much to be proud of when it comes to the work TCSO does. The programs listed below are a window into the mission of this agency. To us, it is not about punitive measures. It is about people and making a difference, one life at a time.

TCSO Jail Programs address:

Employment / Jobs

Employment is one of the strongest predictors of successful reentry. When individuals leave custody with a path toward meaningful work, they gain purpose, purpose and the ability to support themselves and their families.

Foundational Skills

Reentry requires more than just a release date — it requires practical life skills. Financial literacy, health literacy, communication skills and the ability to navigate complex systems are essential for long-term success. Strengthening these foundational skills helps individuals build independence and resilience.



Wellness + Culture



HEART HEALTH

On February 18, TCSO staff joined fellow Travis County employees for a lunchtime 30-minute Heart Health Walk. It was a great reminder that even 30 minutes of walking can boost energy, reduce stress and support overall heart health.

1 in 3 U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before becoming adults.

SOURCE: love is respect

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen dating violence is more common than many realize. You can find out what the signs are and how to support your child, a student, your friend or family member via this link. [love is respect](#). is a program of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.



TCSO HONOR GUARD

Earlier this month, the TCSO Honor Guard had the privilege of opening the [Texas Commission On Law Enforcement](#) meeting, showcasing their professionalism and dedication to service. Their presence set a respectful and proud tone for the event, highlighting TCSO's commitment to service and excellence.