



VOL 5: ISSUE 3



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Earlier this month, the National Sheriffs' Association asked me to contribute my thoughts about being among a very small percentage of female sheriffs in the United States. It got me thinking about my personal history as a woman in the field of law enforcement. I never dreamed I would ever be a sheriff. I started my career in law enforcement as a night dispatcher so I could care for my son with special needs during the day. That decision put me on a career path that has been an incredible journey and one of the greatest blessings of my life.

There are 254 counties in the state of Texas and of all the sheriffs, only five are women. I'm so very pleased to tell you that the percentage of women working within your Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) is significantly higher. One-third of our entire workforce are women, and they inspire me. They serve in all ranks from officer and deputy, all the way up to Major. Many others serve in civilian roles across the agency. These women are patrolling the streets, supervising inmate housing units, processing warrants, bookkeeping, managing homicide and sex crimes cases, responding to victims in their time of need, running a kitchen that preps and serves over 4,500 meals a day, and everything in between. I wonder how many of these women nev-



er dreamed they would be doing such incredible things either. I also wonder if I can inspire some of you to dream bigger for your future.

I'm thankful there are so many possibilities for women here at TCSO. When I started in this career field, that was not always the case. Today, the sky's the limit. There's more opportunity than ever before for professional development and promotion. The nature of the work we do offers various shifts that benefit single moms. Mentorship and peer support provide the foundation for career and personal growth. It's a great environment where we do great work for the sake of our community.

GREEN INITIATIVE UPDATE



In our September 2020 issue, we told you about the central plant under construction at the Travis County Correctional Complex. The central plant will use reclaimed water, reducing water consumption. The chilled water it produces will be pushed to our buildings, where it will cool the AC units, pick up heat, then return as warm water to the central plant to be re-cooled.

This month, water lines were installed, running to and from three buildings on campus.

INMATE VISITATION RESUMES



In compliance with the Governor's Order Number 34, TCSO resumed in-person visitation for inmates on March 16th, after developing a safety plan that was approved by Austin Public Health and submitted to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. For the health of inmates, staff, and visitors, all visitors must agree to wear a mask, have their temperature taken, and review a list of symptoms provided by the CDC. A full list of safety procedures and visitation hours are available on our Visit an Inmate webpage.

We remain committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible during this time and encourage visitors to utilize the Securus Video Visitation System as an alternative method to connect with friends and loved ones while they are in custody.

HANDBAGS FOR HOPE

Advertisement for Handbags for Hope, including logos for Texas Advocacy Project and Handbags for Hope, dates (March 10 - April 9), and contact information for donations.

TCSO is proud to continue our partnership with the Texas Advocacy Project (TAP) in their efforts to raise awareness and support for survivors of domestic violence. We are collecting brand new handbags, diaper bags or unisex totes that are fitted with a discreet tag that list TAP's toll-free legal line 800-374-HOPE, safety planning information, and Allstate Foundation's Financial Empowerment Planning Guide.

You can drop-off your donation in our collection barrel located in the lobby of our Central Command, Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: Travis County Sheriff's Office Keith G. Ruiz Building 5555 Airport Blvd. Austin, TX 78751

HOSPITAL VISITATION UNIT



TCSO's Hospital Visitation Unit (HVV) staff are the first encounters for employees and visitors at the Travis County Correctional Complex. The unit is comprised of 52 officers, 12 civilians, 5 sergeants and 1 lieutenant. HVV officers provide security for the Visitation Building and screen all visitors, from inmate family and friends to official visitors, and TCSO staff who enter the facility.

The HVV also maintains safety and security for all incarcerated individuals being transported to and from medical appointments or the hospital as necessary. HVV officers provide close security and monitoring support for medical staff and the patient. They work with the TCSO medical section to coordinate appointments.

READ MORE

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL



On March 4th, TCSO conducted a virtual Town Hall meeting with the residents of Apache Shores. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other and to answer questions. We discussed topics ranging from how criminal investigations are worked, to traffic nuisances, and everything in between. We extend our thanks to Travis County Precinct 3 Commissioner Ann Howard for joining the discussion.

If your neighborhood is interested in a community meeting and/or a neighborhood safety presentation, please contact our Community Outreach Unit. You can visit our webpage for more information.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month graphic featuring Sheriff Hernandez and a quote about women's leadership.

Sheriff Hernandez was honored by the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) as part of Women's History Month. The above NSA tweet on March 8th (International Women's Day) highlighted Hernandez's 40-year career in public service.

Out of 3,081 elected sheriffs in the United States, only 57 (1.9%) are women. Out of 254 elected sheriffs in Texas, only 5 are women.

"Women in leadership offer a valuable point of view and I look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have in leadership roles for decades to come," Sheriff Hernandez said to the NSA.