

HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC UNIT

OCTOBER 2025

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM THE SHERIFF



[House Bill 33](#), also known as the Uvalde Strong Act, was passed into law and became effective September 1. The bill was proposed by State Rep. Don McLaughlin, the former Mayor of Uvalde, Texas.

The law is designed to improve school safety and emergency response to active-attack incidents on school campuses by addressing response plans, training, equipment, security plans and communication. Under the law, Texas sheriffs are required to conduct at least one meeting annually in which local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, ISD superintendents, first responders and emergency management representatives share information and develop standard operating agreements.

It hurts my heart that we live in a day and time in which evil acts of violence are enacted on school campuses. As hard as it is to consider, it is our duty to learn all we can and prepare to the very best of our ability. And we do. As an agency, TCSO has mandated and received [Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training](#) (ALERRT) for years. This law is the next step in preparedness.

In November, I will host Travis County's first annual meeting. Invitations have been sent to ISD superintendents and all police chiefs in the county, in accordance with requirements stated in the law. Your Travis County Sheriff's Office is working diligently to provide a high-level overview of school safety, law enforcement response, chain of command, available resources, radio interoperability and public school emergency response plans.

Subject matter experts from TCSO, Texas Association of School Boards, the Department of Public Safety, Austin Police Department, Emergency Medical Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Texas Department of Emergency Management and Greater Austin/Travis Regional Radio System will offer insightful presentations.

In next month's newsletter, I will share results of the meeting as well as plans for future collaborative efforts. If your charter school superintendent would like to attend, I welcome you to call our office at 512-854-9700. We are happy to include you.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Deputies were honored to visit all the neighborhoods and community members who registered for this year's National Night Out on October 7. TCSO values the opportunity to engage face-to-face, answer questions and simply spend time getting to know neighborhood residents outside of emergency situations. These personal connections are the heart of effective policing and lasting community trust.

We're grateful to everyone who invited us out, and we look forward to continuing these partnerships throughout the year. Together, we can keep building safe, connected communities — and we can't wait to see you again for National Night Out 2026!

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FORENSIC SERVICES

On October 8, Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly opened TCSO Forensic Services building. Travis County Judge Andy Brown joined the sheriff in a press conference to memorialize the event. The new building marks a major milestone for the crime scene and evidence teams at TCSO, who worked for decades in facilities at East Command that were not designed for forensics.

Located on the Travis County Correctional Complex campus in Del Valle, the building houses state-of-the-art evidence storage facilities and forensic examination tools. It was designed according to specifications outlined by TCSO's forensic scientists. It's a tremendous step forward in TCSO's mission to stay current on technological advancements and industry standards for the sake of obtaining justice for victims.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT



TCSO's annual Trunk-or-Treat brought out hundreds of smiling faces on October 26. The Administration and Support Bureau, Corrections Bureau, Recruiting Unit, Training Academy's COBRA and BPOC Cadets, Auto Theft Unit and Community Outreach Unit teamed up with community partners to provide a free, fun and safe trick-or-treating experience for families.

TCSO teams also went all out in a friendly competition for the "Best Decorated" trophy — and this year's top honors went to the Corrections Bureau for their amazing K-Pop Demon Hunters display which included a DJ, cotton candy, face painting & more!

A huge thank you to our sponsors H-E-B, Target and Sam's Club and everyone who participated, volunteered and helped make this year's event such a fantastic success. Your creativity, teamwork and community spirit made it a day to remember!

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CVE INSPECTION

TCSO participated in a multi-agency operation that inspected all buses entering Circuit of the Americas for the Formula 1 race. No bus was permitted to enter without displaying a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) inspection sticker, indicating it had successfully passed. Agencies including Austin Police Department, Cedar Park Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office and many others worked together at the all-day operation to ensure the safety of all passengers.

Results:

- 167 Inspections
- 21 Drivers taken out of service
- 7 Busses taken out of service
- 163 Total Violations



FAITH COMMUNITY

This month, TCSO received extraordinary kindness from the Central Texas Public Safety Commission and the Catholic Diocese of Austin. At the [Blessing of the Badges](#) and the Blue Mass, law enforcement officers accepted gratitude and prayers from the community. The events offer a meaningful experience and are deeply appreciated.



CONFERENCE

Earlier this month, TCSO was proud to co-host the [ROCIC](#) Annual Homicide Conference alongside the [Texas Narcotic Officers Association](#), bringing together detectives from multiple agencies. The event provided valuable opportunities to exchange expertise, advance investigative skills and strengthen partnerships across jurisdictions. Sheriff Hernandez delivered opening remarks, welcoming participants and emphasizing the importance of collaboration and ongoing professional development in the pursuit of justice for victims and their families.



BROWN SANTA

Each year, the [Brown Santa](#) non-profit program brings holiday cheer to families in need throughout Travis County by providing gifts for children and food for their families, serving approximately 2,000 households annually. The program is accepting [applications](#) now through November 30.

Additionally, there are many ways you can make a difference — [volunteer](#) at the warehouse or [make a donation](#) to help continue this meaningful holiday tradition.



STAR PROGRAM

TCSO welcomed law enforcement officers from Germany and Spain as part of the [STAR International Police Exchange Program](#). The visiting officers observed agency operations, including patrol duties, community engagement efforts and organizational structure.

Fostering cross-cultural collaboration, the program highlights dedication to professional excellence and to building trust across communities and law enforcement agencies worldwide.



WALK-TO-SCHOOL DAY

On October 8 and 10, TCSO was happy to take part in both Hidden Lake and Rowe Lane Elementary School's National Walk to School Days. The annual event encourages students to walk to school, highlighting the importance of physical activity and the necessity of safe routes to school for walking and biking.

TCSO deputies and cadets arrived before sunrise and had a great time with students and their families, providing traffic control and walking with the crowd. We hope to be invited back next year!

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COBRA 116 GRADUATION



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 very educational, detailed and supportive instruction.

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class 116 who graduated on October 3: Ariana Alonso, Jesse Bernal, Rashid Brewington, Talana Bryant, Janet Chavez, Dustin Dailey, Brendan Eastwood, William Hebert, Tyler Hersh, Haden Johnson, Maurice Johnson, Landon Kupfer, Aloali'i Laga, Briana Lewsi, Gerardo Luna, Justin Martin, Adriana Martinez, Gabrielle Martinez, Juan Martinez-Moysen, Linda Medina, Jeron Moore, Kyle Narine, Ryan Patrick, Robert Rice, Niurka Rosa-Torres, Dillen Rugely, Daryl Searles and Cole Trahan.



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