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Travis County Sheriff's Office

NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism



In the Community



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our TCSO employees and community partners, our Back-to-School Supply Drive was a huge success. Together, we collected essential school supplies to help local students start the new school year prepared and confident.

We are proud to support our community and grateful for the opportunity to provide school supplies to Decker, Creedmoor, Riojas and Lagos Elementary Schools. Being able to give back to these students brought us a lot of joy!



FRESH START

On August 16, the TCSO Community Outreach Unit hosted the annual Fresh Start Back-to-School event, providing school supplies and hygiene kits to 100+ local students ahead of the new school year. With generous support from [Covert Auto Group](#), [Sport Clips](#) and [Texas YES Project](#), families were able to simply drive through TCSO's Central Command while our deputies delivered supplies directly to them.



WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS

At this year's [Austin Business Journal](#) Women in Business Awards, Dawn Handley, Chief Operating Officer at Integral Care and Heather Bellino, Chief Operating Officer at Texas Advocacy Project took top honors. TCSO is proud to partner with both organizations. Congratulations, and thank you for the exceptional work you do!



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Sheriff Hernandez participated in the Austin/Travis County Family Justice Center Steering Committee meeting alongside local government, public safety and community partners working to advance the development of Travis County's Family Justice Center. This month's meeting focused on the search for the Center's first Executive Director, plans for a community forum with finalists and continued work surrounding technology, services and the future facility. The Family Justice Center remains a collaborative effort to create a more coordinated, accessible and survivor-driven system of support for individuals and families in Travis County.



From the Sheriff

On August 21, I had the honor of attending the Austin Business Journal's annual Women in Business Awards Event where they honor women who have forged their own path and developed their own leadership principles. Over 150 women were nominated, and the room was filled with exceptional leaders who are influencing in our county and far beyond. When the winners were announced, I simply could not have been more excited. Two women very near and dear to TCSO took the honor; Dawn Handley, Chief Operating Officer at Integral Care and Heather Bellino, Chief Executive Officer at Texas Advocacy Project.

TCSO has enjoyed a longstanding partnership with each of these organizations. Our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Integral Care's Extended Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (EMCOT) work to connect people in a mental health crisis with the help they need. Integral Care works with people in our care and custody who are about to be released, connecting them with mental health services in the community. The organization also reaches into our jail to engage individuals with a substance abuse disorder and stays connected with them upon their release to continue substance use disorder treatment in the community. TCSO also works with Integral Care on diversion programs designed to deflect non-violent individuals in a mental health crisis to voluntary treatment rather than incarceration.

At TCSO, we make it a priority to amplify the voice of victims. Texas Advocacy Project does the same. They are the voice of victims in the legal system. They help our survivors of abuse by providing legal advice, legal representation, social services and access to the justice system. They empower survivors to permanently stop power-based abuse at no cost.

I often say that the challenges we face cannot be overcome ourselves. It takes strategic partnerships to truly succeed. I am so glad to see that the Austin Business Journal recognizes the exceptional level of professional acumen these women have and the vital work they do to literally change lives for the better. TCSO simply couldn't ask for better partners than these.

Proud Highlights



RESERVES SCHOLARSHIP

The TCSO Reserves proudly awarded Cyah White the Steve Tittsworth Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship supporting her continued education and future career goals.

Cyah previously served as the Sergeant for TCSO Public Safety Cadet Post 1099, demonstrating leadership, dedication and a strong commitment to public service. She has now begun her studies at Xavier University of Louisiana, a prestigious HBCU in New Orleans, where she is majoring in Biology Pre-Med.

Congratulations, Cyah, and best wishes for continued success!

Wellness + Culture



PAWSITIVE SUPPORT

After making their first visit to TCSO in June, the [Divine Canines](#) therapy dogs returned August 25 to Central Command, spreading a little extra joy and brightening the day for staff. Their wagging tails, friendly faces and unconditional affection provided a welcome opportunity for employees to take a break, relax and enjoy some four-legged companionship. We're grateful to Divine Canines for bringing these special therapy dogs to TCSO and helping support the well-being of our team!

Looking Ahead



We hope you will join TCSO for [National Night Out](#) on Tuesday, October 6. Neighborhoods across Travis County will come together from 5-9 PM for an evening of community, conversation and connection with local law enforcement. [Registration](#) for neighborhood block parties is open until September 22. We look forward to seeing all of you as we strengthen the relationships that make our communities safer and stronger!

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S
HIGH FIVE
CELEBRATE THE SMALL ACTIONS THAT MAKE A BIG IMPACT

